

2. Universal Waste Transfer Facility Storage Time Limit

The universal waste management standards of 40 CFR Part 273, Subpart D, outline the streamlined provisions for transporters of hazardous waste batteries, pesticides, and thermostats classified as universal waste. During the normal course of transportation, transporters of universal waste are allowed to temporarily hold waste shipments at transfer facilities for ten days (§273.53). Section 273.6 defines a transfer facility as any transportation-related facility such as a loading dock, parking area, or storage area where a transporter can store universal waste. If the transporter exceeds the ten-day storage time period at a transfer facility, with what additional regulations is the transporter required to comply?

If a transporter stores universal waste at a transfer facility for more than ten days, the transporter would meet the definition of a universal waste handler, and would be required to comply with the universal waste handler regulations under Part 273, Subparts B and C (60 FR 25501; May 11, 1995). The definition of a universal waste handler includes facilities that receive universal waste from other handlers, provided they do not impermissibly treat, dispose, or recycle universal wastes. As a universal waste handler, the transporter may need to comply with additional notification, labeling/marketing, employee training, and tracking requirements. The transporter normally would not be required to obtain a permit for storage, however, unless the transfer facility becomes a destination facility, as defined in §273.6.