Purpose
This overview presents a broad look at the hazardous waste permitting process for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs), and provides preliminary information on how the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) determines who needs a permit. Detailed requirements can be found in the Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) Title 18, Chapter 8, the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) Title 49, Chapter 5, and by reaching out to talk with our staff!

What is a RCRA Permit?
A Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA) TSDF permit is a complex and stringent regulatory document. RCRA permits are issued for TSDFs (either operating, closing, or requiring post-closure care) and creates enforceable requirements to protect human health and the environment from potential impacts released at the TSDF. New TSDFs are required to apply and receive a permit prior to constructing and operating a hazardous waste TSDF.

Who Needs a RCRA Permit?
If your facility operation meets the definition of a TSDF (or requires long-term environmental stewardship for a previous hazardous waste release), you will need to reach out to ADEQ’s hazardous waste permitting unit to discuss the planned operations. RCRA permits are individual and tailored to your unique facility. This means that your RCRA permit may include storage, treatment, or disposal requirements depending on the planned operations. See the decision tree below for some context on who needs a RCRA Permit!

Storage
- Meet the definition of storage
- Store > 90 days for Large Quantity Generators
- Store > 180 days for Small Quantity Generators
- Store > 1 year for universal waste handlers
- Store hazardous waste prior to recycling

Treatment
- Treating waste without meeting an exemption
- Non-legitimate* recycling units
- Additional processing units
- Intentional changes to waste properties

Disposal
- Disposing of waste on-site (without exemption)

Misc.
- Closed units requiring post-closure care
- Releases requiring long-term stewardship

*Guidance for legitimate recycling.
Please reach out to ADEQ staff at the contact on Page 2 to discuss your planned hazardous waste recycling operation to guarantee compliance!
RCRA Permitting FAQ

Who Does NOT Need a RCRA Permit?

If your facility meets the requirements for a permit, but is classified as exempt, there is no need for further action. If you’re unsure, reach out! If your facility is located on tribal land, your regulatory body is EPA Region 9. The decision tree below lays out some common exemptions to each of the TSDF categories.

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How do I get a RCRA Permit?

The best way to start the process is by reaching out to ADEQ’s RCRA permitting staff! Let us know that you may need a RCRA permit and we will discuss your facility’s operations with you to ensure compliance. If a RCRA permit is deemed necessary, we will walk you through our process and go over your pre-application requirements (such as public meetings).

Permit applications consist of a Part A and B. Details and regulations for the permit application can be found on our website here.

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Fees and Timing

The application fees associated with your permit application vary based on the type of facility and can be found in AAC Title 18, Chapter 8, Part 270(G). Additionally, application review and project management hours are billed at a rate of $136 per hour.

ADEQ adopted LEAN management strategies, and as a result strives to review and issue permits within 6 months! While this is our goal, delays in the process can occur and may extend the time frame.

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Citations:

1 – 40 CFR Part 270.10(f)  
2 – 40 CFR Part 260.10  
3 – 40 CFR Part 262  
4 – 40 CFR Part 273  
5 – ADEQ Substantive Policy 4002.001  
6 – 40 CFR Part 261.6(c)  
7 – 40 CFR Part 261.4

Contact Us!

Email us at: hazwastepermits@azdeq.gov  
Call us at (602) 771-4120