

40 CFR Part 441 Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category Overview

On June 14, 2017, the USEPA promulgated pretreatment standards to reduce discharges of mercury from dental offices into Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). The effective date of the rule is July 14, 2017.

Who does this rule apply to?

This rule applies to all dental offices with the following exceptions:

- Dental offices that discharge to POTWs that do not place or remove dental amalgam except in limited emergency, unplanned, unanticipated circumstances are exempt and need only submit a one-time compliance certification to the City no later than October 12, 2020, or 90 days after a transfer of ownership.
- Dental dischargers that exclusively practice the following specialties are exempt from the rule:
 - Oral pathology
 - Oral and maxillofacial radiology
 - Oral and maxillofacial surgery
 - Orthodontics
 - Periodontics
 - Prosthodontics
- Mobile units are exempt from the rule.
- Dental offices that do not discharge their amalgam process wastewater into the POTW are exempt from the rule.

What does the rule require of my dental office?

- Existing dental dischargers (dental offices, that were operating before July 14, 2017) that do not fall under any of the above exemptions must submit a One-Time Compliance Certification that they are in compliance with the rule by July 14, 2020.
- New dental dischargers (dental offices that begin operating on or after July 14, 2017) must be in compliance with the standards immediately and submit a One-Time Compliance Certification within 90 days after their first discharge.
- Dental offices that place or remove amalgam must operate and maintain an amalgam separator and must not discharge scrap amalgam.
- Dental offices that are required to have amalgam separators are prohibited from using certain kinds of line cleaners that are oxidizing or acidic cleaners, including but not limited to bleach, chlorine, iodine or peroxide. The line cleaners used must have a pH between 6.0 – 8.0 standard units.

- Existing amalgam separators must be properly designed and maintained and may be operated for their lifetime but no longer than ten years from the effective date of the rule (June 14, 2027), whichever comes first.
- When a separator needs replacement, or the ten-year period has ended and the separator does not meet the standard of the final rule, a dental office must replace it with one that meets ISO 11143 (or ANSI/ADA 108-2009) standard (or equivalent) and file a One-Time Compliance Certification within 90 days of installation.
- Records keeping requirements for 3 years:
 - Documentation of Inspections
 - Documentation of container replacement
 - Documentation of off-site disposal
 - Documentation of repair/replacement
 - Documentation of Operators Manual for device.

Where can I find more information?

The full text of the rule including all requirements can be found here: [40 CFR Part 441-Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category](#)

A shorter FAQ released by the Oregon DEQ which describes the requirements included in the rule can be found here: [DEQ Factsheet on Dental Rule Compliance](#)

What form do I use for the One-Time Compliance Certification?

A One-Time Compliance Certification created in partnership with Oregon ACWA and the Oregon DEQ can be found here: [One Time Compliance Report for Dental Dischargers-City of Springfield](#)

Certifications in other formats so long as they include all the information required by the rule are also acceptable.

Where do I submit the One-Time Compliance Certification?

If you are a dental discharger operating in the City of Springfield, certifications should be mailed to the following address:

City of Springfield
Attn: Industrial Pretreatment Program
225 Fifth Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Who should I contact if I have questions about the dental rule that aren't answered here?

Please contact the City of Springfield at 541-726-3675 with any questions regarding the dental rule.