

# MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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**No.MPCB/RO(HQ)/B:6163**

**Date:10.10.2008**

## C I R C U L A R

**Sub:** All industries generating spent solvents and its reprocessors.

**Ref:** Meeting held on 18/09/2008 at MPCB (HQ) with 26 industries representatives.

There are several industries involved in manufacturing of chemicals, paints, pharmaceutical products, petrochemicals etc. are generating spent solvents / contaminated solvents. These spent solvents are further processed/undergo distillation processes and working as stand alone facilities.

The solvent distillation is an activity which generates considerable quantity of hazardous waste which primarily needs to be incinerated. Solvent distillation is carried out by some units as stand alone facility as these units undertake such distillation on job work basis. The solvent distillation is also carried out to a large extent captively in large bulk drug/pesticide/pharmaceutical manufacturing industries in order to recycle and reused the spent/contaminated solvent generated.

There are several discrepancies observed in the mechanism of spent solvent handling. Such as –

- 1) Hazardous Waste i.e. Spent Solvent is covered under the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended 2003 but many units treated it as by-product.

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- 2) The solvents handed over to solvent distillation units are not properly recorded. Neither generators of the solvent nor reprocessors/ recyclers of the solvent follows manifest system.
- 3) None of the generator and reprocessor of spent solvent transported their HW through MPCB authorized hazardous wastes transporter.
- 4) The various traders of virgin solvents are also involved in purchase of spent contaminated solvent from generator.
- 5) The stand alone distillation units are not properly equipped with proper pumping arrangements, feed pumps, thermostats, automating column control system, odour minimization system, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) minimization mechanism etc.
- 6) These stand alone distillation units do not have proper recording of sludge/residue generation. These residues generated are not properly disposed off to CHWT/SDF.
- 7) There are huge losses upto 30% of spent solvents during transportation, processing, distillation etc.
- 8) No proper scrubbing systems are provided to cope with emissions.
- 9) These units are not authorized by the way of consent.
- 10) It is needed to have amended condition in the consent under authorization of hazardous waste specifying that they are allowed to receive hazardous waste i.e. spent solvents for further refining/reprocessing.

In view of above, Board has taken strong step to ensure illegal trafficking of spent solvents. The following are the guidelines:-

- 1) Every generator of hazardous waste should verify the mode of hazardous waste disposal till it is finally disposed.
- 2) The generator should check that re-processor of their waste is authorized to collect their hazardous waste and have technically feasible/suitable facility which can take care of further purification of spent hazardous waste/spent solvent.

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- 3) Generator should confirm consent of re-processor specifying condition in the authorization to re-use and re-process hazardous waste.
- 4) Generators and reprocessors of spent solvent should follow the manifest system.
- 5) The hazardous waste intended for re-processing should be transported through MPCB authorized hazardous wastes transporters only.
- 6) The spent solvents should not be sold to traders in any case.

In case of any violation of the conditions mentioned above in contravention to Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended 2003, the fine will be levied as per the provision of the Rule 16 (3) and legal action will be initiated including closure of the industry, which may please be noted.

Sd/-

**(Sanjay Khandare)**  
Member Secretary

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