

**Date: July 26, 2017**

**To: Dental Facilities discharging wastewater to the City of Greensboro Wastewater System (POTW)**

**From: City of Greensboro Water Resources Department Industrial Waste Section (Control Authority)**

**Re: 40 CFR Part 441 – Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category**

On June 14, 2017 the Environmental Protection Agency published 40 CFR Part 441 in the Federal Register with an effective date of July 14, 2017. This new rule regulates dental facilities that discharge wastewater to a municipal wastewater treatment plant.

The rule requires dental offices that place and/or remove amalgam to install an amalgam separator, to implement two Best Management Practices (BMPs), to submit a One-Time Compliance Report to the Control Authority, and to conduct on-going operation and maintenance of the amalgam separator, and maintain associated documentation and records.

**Link to the rule**

<https://www.epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines>

*Definitions:*

- POTW = Publicly Owned Treatment Works (municipal wastewater treatment plant)
- Control Authority (CA) = For dental practices in larger cities, the Local POTW Pretreatment Program Administrator is the CA. **In Greensboro, the CA is the Water Resources Industrial Waste Section.**  
Note: For dentists located in a town that does not have a Pretreatment Program, the State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the Control Authority.

40 CFR Part 441 requires the following:

- All dental facilities in operation prior to July 14, 2017 must complete, certify and submit a One-Time Compliance Report/Certification to the "Control Authority" no later than **October 12, 2020** stating that either:
  - (1) their dental practice is exclusively one of the types of practices that are exempted in the rule (oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics) and thus does not discharge amalgam wastewater and does not require an amalgam separator or BMPs; **OR**
  - (2) their dental practice does not place dental amalgam and does not remove amalgam except in limited emergency, or unplanned, unanticipated circumstances, and thus does not discharge amalgam and does not require an amalgam separator or BMPs; **OR**
  - (3) their dental practice does place and remove amalgam **and prior to July 14, 2020 the practice:**
    - (a) has installed an amalgam separator meeting ISO 11143:2008 specifications or ANSI/ADA 108-2009 specifications **and**
    - (b) is inspecting the amalgam separator in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the separator(s) and to confirm that all amalgam process wastewater is flowing through the amalgam retaining portion of the amalgam separator(s) **and**

- (c) is replacing the amalgam retaining units in accordance with the manufacturer’s schedule or when the retaining unit has reached the maximum level as specified by the manufacturer **and**
- (d) is following the 2 required Best Management Practices (BMPs) [no discharge of waste amalgam and no oxidizing cleaners used to clean dental wastewater lines]
- Any new dentist/dental practice *that opens on or after July 14, 2017* is considered a “new source” and must comply with the certification and/or amalgam separator installation prior to discharging dental wastewater.
  - The “new sources” must comply immediately with all of the requirements upon opening the practice and do not get the 3 year compliance period allowed for an “existing source”.
  - Their One-Time Compliance Report is due no later than 90 days following introduction of wastewater into a POTW
- Transfer of ownership – Any transfer of ownership of a dental practice requires a new One-Time Compliance Report be submitted to the WWTP within 90 days after the transfer.
- Recordkeeping Requirements: Submit and retain a copy of the One-Time Compliance Report as long as the dental practice is in operation or until ownership is transferred.
- Recordkeeping Requirements: Maintain and retain for a minimum of 3 years:
  - Documentation of date, person conducting the amalgam separator inspection, results of inspection and any follow-up actions if needed
  - Documentation of amalgam container replacement, including the date as applicable
  - Documentation of all dates that collected amalgam is picked up or shipped for proper disposal, and the name of the permitted facility or licensed treatment, storage or disposal facility receiving the amalgam retaining containers
  - Documentation of repair or replacement of an amalgam separator including date, person making the repair or replacement and a description including make and model
  - Maintain the amalgam separator manufacturer’s operation manual in either physical or electronic form

**Greensboro Water Resources Department Industrial Waste Section Contacts (Control Authority)**

The Dental Rule is self-implementing in that EPA expects all dental dischargers to know about the rule and comply with the rule.

The City of Greensboro Industrial Waste Section is developing a format for the One-Time Compliance Report. The document is currently in draft form and the final version will be posted on this website.

**For more information about the new EPA Dental Rule (40 CFR Part 441) contact:**

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