

Dental Office Point Source Category

EPA's DENTAL AMALGAM RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is implementing technology-based Pretreatment Standards under the Clean Water Act to reduce discharges of mercury from dental offices into municipal sewage treatment plants known as Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). The new Dental Office Point Source Category requires dental offices to utilize amalgam separators and implement two Best Management Practices (BMPs) as recommended by the American Dental Association.

The Dental Office Point Source Category became effective on July 14, 2017.

- Existing Dental Offices must comply with the new standards by July 14, 2020.
- New Dental Offices must comply immediately.

The Goleta Sanitary District Resource Recovery Facility (GSD) is in the process of developing its compliance program for dental offices in the GSD [service area](#) so they can comply with this rule.

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

To simplify implementation and compliance for the dental offices, the rule establishes that Dental Dischargers are neither Significant Industrial Users nor Categorical Industrial Users subject to categorical Pretreatment Standards. This significantly reduces reporting requirements that would otherwise apply. However, dental offices within GSD's [service area](#) must submit a Compliance Report to GSD as the regulatory Control Authority.

Who is affected? The rule applies to wastewater discharges to POTWs from offices where the practice of dentistry is performed, including large institutions such as dental schools and clinics; permanent or temporary offices; home offices; and dental offices owned and operated by federal, state, or local governments including military bases.

Are there exemptions? Yes, the rule does not apply to Dental Dischargers that exclusively practice one or more of the following dental specialties: Oral Pathology; Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Orthodontics; Periodontics; or Prosthodontics; the rule also doesn't apply to Dental Mobile Units.

Dental Dischargers that do not place dental amalgam, and do not remove dental amalgam except in limited emergency or unplanned, unanticipated circumstances are exempt from any further requirements of the rule as long as they certify such in the Compliance Report to GSD.

RESOURCES / MORE INFORMATION

Please click the following links to the EPA website for detailed information on the Dental Category: [development document](#), [effluent guidelines](#), [fact sheet](#), and [frequently asked questions](#). The Dental Office Point Source Category regulation is codified at [40 CFR Part 441](#).

COMPLIANCE REPORT FORMS

Please note there are two distinct forms (**Dental Discharger Compliance Report *and* Exempt/Limited Dental Discharge Compliance Report**), one for dental offices that place and/or remove amalgam and a second **“Exempt/Limited” form for exempt practices as defined in the regulations**. The following PDF forms are fillable electronic documents which allow you to save information using any version of Adobe Acrobat, including Acrobat Reader. First, download the applicable form to your computer and use “Save As” to name the file. Next, open the file form and enter your information. Save entered information by using “File, Save” feature in Acrobat.

[Dental Discharger Compliance Report \(372 Kb PDF\)](#)

[Exempt/Limited Dental Discharger Compliance Report \(375 Kb PDF\)](#)

**When completed, print, sign,
date, make a copy for your
records and mail the original to:**

Goleta Sanitary District
Dental Amalgam Program
1 William Moffett Place
Goleta, CA 93117

~AND~

**Save a copy of this PDF
and e-mail to:**

tkistner@goletasanitary.org