This brochure answers some common questions about Pennsylvania’s residual waste requirements that may pertain to small businesses. It is intended as an introduction, not a comprehensive guide.

Requirements vary depending on the facility and the specific waste, and how the waste is processed, reused and/or disposed of. We encourage all small businesses to seek assistance as needed. Environmental consultants at the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers’ Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) can provide no-cost, confidential assistance.

What is Residual Waste?
Waste in Pennsylvania is classified as either municipal, residual or hazardous. Residual waste is defined as nonhazardous industrial waste and does not include typical office waste or kitchen trash. It includes waste material (solid, liquid or gas) produced by industrial, mining and agricultural operations.

Industrial establishments are those engaged in manufacturing or processing, such as factories, foundries, processing plants, painting operations, and slaughterhouses.

How is it Regulated?
Residual waste regulations are found in PA Code Title 25, Article IX, Chapters 287-299. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Waste Management Program, is authorized to enforce compliance with state laws and regulations that pertain to the handling of waste. DEP does this through permits or authorizations to waste handlers, requiring them to submit reports and analyses, performing on-site investigations, investigating complaints, and prosecuting violators.

More Questions and Answers are inside!
What Types of Materials are Regulated as Residual Waste?
Residual waste (non-hazardous industrial waste) can be composed of a wide variety of waste materials which are generated as part of a manufacturing operation.

What Types of Record Keeping Requirements are Required for Residual Waste Generators?
All residual waste generators are required to maintain the following records onsite for 5 years:
• The type and amount of waste generated
• The date on which the waste was generated
• The date on which the waste was disposed of
• The name, address, and phone number of the waste hauler
• The name, address, and phone number of the processing/disposal facility

What About Work Practice Requirements?
There are a handful of work practice requirements that pertain to all residual waste generators:
• A residual waste generator may not mix the waste with hazardous waste, special handling waste, or with another waste that would increase the risk of fire or the accumulation of harmful vapors or gasses
• The design and operation of the facility shall employ best engineering design and construction practices, including a routine inspection of the facility for evidence of a release, and this must include the facility, the equipment, and the surrounding areas
• Residual waste cannot be stored onsite for longer than 1 year
• The generator must take steps to minimize and control nuisances including insects, odors, dust, etc.
• The generator must take steps to minimize runoff and prevent groundwater degradation
• There must be enough containers to contain the waste between collections
• All containers must be labeled as RESIDUAL WASTE, or the specific type of residual waste stored.

What is a Chemical Analysis of the Waste Required?
Facilities that generate more than 2,200 pounds in a single month are required to perform a chemical analysis of the waste and submit a copy to DEP.

Do all Generators Need to Submit a Biennial Report and Source Reduction Strategy to DEP?
Facilities that generate 13 tons or more of residual waste per year are considered large quantity generators. Large quantity residual waste generators need to submit a biennial report to the DEP by March 1st of every odd-numbered year and develop a source reduction strategy.

How Do I Determine How Much Residual Waste my Business Generates?
The easiest way to determine how much residual waste your facility generates is to ask your waste hauler for waste records or receipts. They are usually able to give you an average weight per cubic yard or dumpster load. Then, you can multiply that number by the times per month the dumpster is emptied to give you your pounds of residual waste generated per month.

When is a Chemical Analysis of the Waste Required?
Processing, burning or reusing waste, or on-site disposal of residual waste (including liquids) may require a permit or approval from DEP. Permit types may include an individual or general permit or a permit-by-rule.

How Do I Learn More About Residual Waste Requirements?
More information about residual waste requirements and potential permitting is available from the DEP’s Division of Municipal and Residual Waste, Bureau of Waste Management at www.dep.state.pa.us (use keyword “residual waste”).

Where Can I Go for Assistance?
Contact the Pennsylvania SBDC Environmental Management Assistance Program to receive help from an EMAP consultant. All EMAP services are offered at no cost and are strictly confidential. Call us at 877-ask-EMAP, email us at questions@askemap.org, or visit us at www.askemap.org.