

New US EPA Dental Regulation Passes On Amalgam Waste “Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Dental Offices”

The EPA recently announced the compliance effective date of July 14, 2017 for regulation entitled “[Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Dental Offices](#)”.

The regulation, commonly referred to as the “Dental Rule” was signed into the Federal Register, now requiring all 50 states be compliant to a new standard of Best Management Practices (BMPs) regarding amalgam waste. The new EPA dental regulation was originally signed on December 16, 2016 and was under review with the new presidential administration until last June 9.

This new rule requires certain dental offices to comply with BMPs when handling amalgam waste. Practices are now required to either install an ISO 11143:2008 certified amalgam separator or an ANSI/ADA Standard No. 108 certified amalgam separator at a separation rate of 95 percent. Additionally, dental offices will be required to use amalgam waste buckets as defined in the BMPs, for the proper disposal of contact/non-contact amalgam items such as vacuum traps and amalgam capsules.

The new EPA dental amalgam regulation will affect dental offices nationwide that remove or replace amalgam restorations, a significant increase over the 11 individual state mandates which have been using amalgam separators since 2002.

EPA Dental Regulation Implementation Period:

- To comply with the new EPA dental regulation, EXISTING dental practices will have 3 years to install either a certified ANSI/ADA Standard No. 108 for Amalgam Separator, or a ISO 11143:2008 certified amalgam separator at a separation rate of 95%.

- To comply with the new EPA dental regulation, NEW practices will have 90 days to install either a certified ANSI/ADA Standard No. 108 for Amalgam Separator, or a ISO 11143:2008 certified amalgam separator at a separation rate of 95%.
- To comply with the new EPA dental regulation, dental offices that currently have an amalgam separator installed will have 10 years to comply and ensure they have a ANSI/ADA Standard No. 108 for Amalgam Separator, or a ISO 11143:2008 certified amalgam separator at a separation rate of 95%.

Exemptions:

- This rule applies to offices, including large institutions such as dental schools and clinics, where dentistry is practiced that discharge to a POTW. The new EPA dental regulation does not apply to mobile units or offices where the practice of dentistry consists only of the following dental specialties: oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics.

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Important Links:

[EPA Effluent Guidelines](#)

[ADA Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste](#)

[EPA Regulation-“Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category”](#)

[EPA Regulation Fact Sheet](#)

For more information, visit solmetex.com/EPA_regulation/