

Hazardous Waste Generator Categories – MD vs. Federal

Federal hazardous waste regulations, which states are required to be at least as stringent as, establish three categories of generators: very small quantity generators (VSQGs), small quantity generators (SQGs), and large quantity generators (LQGs). There are two main criteria that determine the category in which a hazardous waste generator falls: the amount of hazardous waste generated in a calendar month, and the maximum amount of hazardous waste on site at any time.

Ignoring acute hazardous waste, the following table specifies the generator category under federal regulations based on the above criteria

Federal Regulations		
You are a VSQG if: (MD – SQG)	the amount of hazardous waste you generate in a calendar month is 100 kg or less	AND the amount of hazardous waste on site at any time is 1000 kg or less.
You are a SQG if: (MD – Generator)	the amount of hazardous waste you generate in a calendar month is more than 100 kg and less than 1000 kg	OR: the amount of hazardous waste on site at any time is more than 1000 kg and is never more than 6000 kg*.
You are a LQG if: (MD – Generator)	the amount of hazardous waste you generate in a calendar month is 1000 kg or more	OR the amount of hazardous waste on site at any time is more than 6000 kg*.

(*Note: under federal regulations, a SQG who accumulates more than 6000 kg of hazardous waste is required to obtain a storage facility permit, but a LQG may accumulate more than 6000 kg of hazardous waste without triggering permit requirements. Thus, a SQG who accumulates more than 6000 kg of hazardous waste would in all likelihood elect to change his classification to LQG rather than become subject to permitting requirements.)

Under federal regulations, LQGs are subject to the full set of hazardous waste regulations, SQGs are subject to less stringent requirements than LQGs, and VSQGs are exempted from most hazardous waste regulations, provided they perform a hazardous waste characterization and arrange for the waste to be delivered to an appropriate facility as specified in the regulations.

Maryland regulations provide for two categories of generators: “small quantity generators” (analogous to the federal VSQG), and “generators” (informally referred to as “fully regulated generators”, and analogous to the federal large quantity generator (LQG) and federal small quantity generator (SQG). Maryland regulations also establish a much lower limit on the maximum amount of waste that Maryland’s analog to the federal VSQG may accumulate. The following table summarizes the Maryland criteria for nonacute hazardous waste (for acute hazardous waste, the limits are 1 kilogram generated in a calendar month or accumulated at any time):

Under Maryland Regulations		
You are a Maryland SQG if: (Fed. – CESQG)	the amount of hazardous waste you generate in a calendar month is less than 100 kg	AND the amount of hazardous waste on site at any time is 100 kg or less.
You are a fully regulated generator if: (Fed. – SQG or LQG)	the amount of hazardous waste you generate in a calendar month is 100 kg or more	OR the amount of hazardous waste on site at any time is more than 100 kg.

The full details on the Maryland requirements are found in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) at COMAR 26.13.02.05.