

UNIVERSITY SAFETY OFFICE

MSC 3578
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
Telephone: (505) 646-3327
Fax: (505) 646-7898



October 31, 2000

TO: Waste Lamp Handlers

FROM: Drew Kaczmarek, Chemical Safety Manager *Drew Kaczmarek*

SUBJECT: **Waste Lamp Handling Requirements**

Due to the fact that two out of three fluorescent light bulbs we sent off for analysis revealed mercury levels above the limit of 0.2 mg/L (see attached test results), NMSU needs to start collecting all light bulbs that are not specifically marked as ecologically safe (Sylvania ECO Bulbs with green labels). **Only ecologically safe bulbs can continue to be placed in the regular trash.**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has specific requirements governing the management of waste lamps that are not ecologically safe. Summaries of these requirements are outlined below. Failure to comply can lead to steep fines. Other universities across the country, to include UNM and UTEP, are also following the below procedures.

- 1. Place waste bulbs in sturdy containers with no holes in a designated collection area that will prevent breakage.** All holes must be covered with duct tape. **These containers must be closed when bulbs are not being added.** The best containers to use are the original boxes in which the bulbs are shipped.
- 2. Each waste bulb container must be labeled "Universal Waste-Lamps". Each container must also be dated with the date the first bulb was placed inside.** Waste bulbs can be stored for up to one year provided that all the bulbs weigh less than 11,024 pounds total. Then the bulbs must be shipped to an EPA permitted treatment facility.
- 3. All broken bulbs must be immediately cleaned up, placed in a closed container, labeled as "broken light bulb" and turned in to the Safety Office as hazardous waste.** If a bulb with high mercury content (street bulb) or multiple bulbs break, first call the Safety Office before clean up.
- 4. All employees that handle waste bulbs must be trained annually in the above requirements.** Training must be documented. Reading, signing, and posting this memo can serve as training.

If you have any questions please contact the Safety Office at 646-3327. Thank you for your assistance in maintaining a safe and environmentally compliant campus.