Aerosol Can Waste Determination

This document describes the three steps when making a waste determination on aerosol cans that are disposed instead of recycled. The propellant, the product, and the can, itself, must each be evaluated. It only takes one of the three components (propellant, product, or can) to make the disposed aerosol can subject to the hazardous waste rules, however, all three must be evaluated to determine the proper hazards. Aerosol cans that are recycled may be managed under the universal waste requirements of 40 CFR 273.

You are disposing of an aerosol can containing product and propellant

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**Step 1:** Is the propellant hazardous waste?

- **Is the can at atmospheric pressure?**
  - yes: Propellant is not subject to the hazardous waste rules.
  - no: Can is not empty and must be managed as a hazardous waste until it reaches atmospheric pressure. Unless propellant is unused commercial chemical product and is reclaimed under 40 CFR 261.2(c)(3) (then it is not considered a solid waste).

**Step 2:** Is the product in the aerosol can a hazardous waste?

- **Can is not empty and must be managed as a hazardous waste until the can meets RCRA empty container requirements (40 CFR 261.7).** Unless propellant is unused commercial chemical product and is reclaimed under 40 CFR 261.2(c)(3) (then it is not considered a solid waste).

- **Product is subject to the hazardous waste rules until the can meets RCRA empty container requirements (40 CFR 261.7).** Unless propellant is unused commercial chemical product and is reclaimed under 40 CFR 261.2(c)(3) (then it is not considered a solid waste).

**Step 3:** Is the can, itself, a hazardous waste?

- **Can is subject to the hazardous waste rules.**
- **Can is not subject to the hazardous waste rules. (Still recommended the aerosol can be recycled).**