

8 August 2022

Education Bureau Circular No. 8/2022

Control of Chemical Wastes in Secondary Schools

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors and heads of all secondary schools – for necessary action; and
- (b) Heads of sections and primary schools – for information.]

Summary

This circular serves to elucidate the details of the guidelines on the control and handling of chemical wastes in secondary schools. Schools are requested to bring this circular to the attention of their teachers and laboratory technicians in charge of science laboratories and teachers in charge of school workshops, and to coordinate related arrangements. This circular supersedes EDB Circular No.1/1998B dated 11 March 1998 on the same subject.

Details

2. The control of chemical wastes under the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (hereafter, the Regulation) of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) has commenced with effect from 3 May 1993. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has advised that according to the Regulation, all educational establishments (including secondary schools) with science laboratories and / or school workshops are required to register with the EPD as chemical waste producers. Prior to collection for disposal by licensed chemical waste collectors, they should store up properly all chemical wastes which arise as a result of activities in science laboratories and school workshops such as:

- (a) acids, alkalis and corrosive compounds as defined in Schedule 1 to the Regulation¹;
- (b) spent organic solvents; and
- (c) other unwanted chemicals which meet the regulatory definition of “chemical waste”.

¹ For the list of chemicals included in Schedule 1 to the Regulation, please refer to the guideline on the *Chemical Waste Handling Procedures for Secondary School Science Laboratories / School Workshops* (https://cd1.edb.hkedcity.net/cd/science/laboratory/waste/cw_e.htm)

3. The Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) of the EPD provides the waste disposal services for all local chemical waste producers, including secondary schools. Upon registration with the EPD as chemical waste producers, schools will receive chemical waste services package rendered by the contractor of CWTC. Meanwhile, schools should acquire appropriate storage facilities with reference to the specifications given in the latest reference lists of furniture and equipment for Science (S1-3) and Chemistry². New schools not yet registered with the EPD as chemical waste producers should do so as soon as possible by submitting a completed registration form (Form EPD 129) to the EPD. The form is available at the EPD website: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/sites/default/files/epd/english/application_for_licences/applic_froms/files/epd129.pdf.



4. For more information concerning the handling of chemical wastes, schools should refer to *the Guide on the Segregation, Packaging, Labelling and Storage of Chemical Wastes for Schools*, and the *Chemical Waste Handling Procedures for Secondary School Science Laboratories / School Workshops* which are posted on the EDB webpage (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/cd/sc> > References & Resources > Laboratory Safety and Management > [Disposal of Chemical Wastes](#)).



Enquiries

5. For enquiries, please contact the Science Education Section of the Education Bureau on 3698 3438.

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for Secretary for Education

² The reference lists of furniture and equipment can be downloaded at <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/sch-premises-info/furniture-equipment/primary-secondary-schools.html>.