



## **Disposal Capacity Shortage for Healthcare's Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste**

If your facility has experienced delays in getting the hazardous pharmaceutical waste it generates picked up for disposal, you are not alone. Hazardous waste pharmaceuticals are disposed of by only a few RCRA permitted hazardous waste incinerators. These facilities are severely backlogged and therefore are prioritizing waste loads from large industrial hazardous waste generators. This leaves all types of healthcare facilities waiting for service, and scheduling delays of weeks to months are common.

### **What has caused this capacity shortage and what is the outlook?**

The number of permitted incinerators is limited. Routine maintenance of these facilities and unplanned shutdowns result in scheduling delays for short and extended periods of time. Looking at the capacity situation long term, the U.S. is experiencing a resurgence of manufacturing for everything from medical products and pharmaceuticals to the chemical industry. The increases in manufacturing create an additional demand for hazardous waste incineration. The anticipated increase in "on-shoring" of manufacturing back to the U.S. will result in hazardous waste incineration capacity being in short supply for the foreseeable future.

### **What can you do to manage through these conditions?**

- Plan ahead and schedule service well in advance of when you will need it. If possible, maintain a regular schedule for waste pick-ups (monthly, quarterly, etc.).
- Consolidate as much waste as possible to reduce the number of pick-ups needed per year.
- Consider segregating hazardous pharmaceutical waste from non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste. The disposal of non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste is less constrained.
- Take advantage of options available to your facilities which are allowed by the Subpart P Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Rule.

### **Contact PharmEcology**

Feel free to reach out to PharmEcology for any questions you may have and review the many options PharmEcology offers to streamline the management of all your pharmaceutical wastes and NIOSH hazardous drugs.

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