

## PCB procedures

### What are PCB's?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are a synthetic chlorinated hydrocarbon that was widely used as dielectric fluid and plasticizer due to their fire resistance and chemical stability. However, research showed that PCB's persist in the environment and accumulate in fatty tissues of people and animals. In addition, PCB's are linked to chronic reproductive effects, gastric disorders, and skin lesions in laboratory animals and are a suspected human carcinogen. Consequently, PCB's were banned from sale in 1979.

### What type of products might contain PCB's?

Before federal regulations limited PCB production, PCBs were commonly used in a variety of commercial products, including:

- Transformers
- Large, high- and low-voltage capacitors
- Fluorescent light ballasts
- Gaskets and dampening felt
- Liquid-cooled electric motors
- Vacuum pumps
- Microscopy mounting media and immersion oil
- Roofing Mastics
- Radio Transmission Equipment
- Hydraulic systems
- Heat-transfer systems
- Liquid-filled cable
- Switches
- Voltage regulators
- Adhesives
- Microwave ovens
- X-Ray Equipment
- Electromagnets

### Where can PCB's be found at The Evergreen State College?

#### LIGHT BALLAST

##### **PCB light ballast**

PCB light ballasts **may be found** in the following campus buildings: Communication, Lab Annex, Mod Housing, Housing Phase I, President's Residence, Geoduck House and Driftwood house. Any light ballast in these buildings should be assumed to contain PCB unless the light ballast is marked "No PCB" or unless it has been retrofit by Mechanical Services.

##### **Non-PCB light ballast**

The following campus buildings either had all of the PCB light ballasts replaced or were constructed after PCB's were banned: Library, Lab I, Lab II, CAB, CUP, CRC, Seminar, Seminar II, Longhouse, Shops, Housing Phase II and Housing Phase III.

#### TRANSFORMERS

##### **PCB transformer**

The following oil filled transformers have been tested:

Mods – - SN J930864T471AA – 5 ppm PCB

Parking lot B – SN C71150128 – 34 ppm PCB

These two transformers contain PCBs below the EPA threshold of 50 ppm and are not regulated by EPA 40 CFR 761 (TSCA) regulations. However, they are regulated under WA Dept of Ecology regulations WAC 173-303 that govern disposal of dangerous waste.

### **Non-PCB transformer**

At TESC, the following transformers are silicone fluid filled and **do not** contain PCB

<b>Location</b>	<b>Non PCB transformer serial number</b>
CUP	SBT 8339-0101 & PAL 4676-0101
Communication	PAL 4675-0101 & PAL 4674-0101
CAB	PAL 4677-0101
LAB I	896002292
LAB II	896002293
Seminar	896002294
Library	896002355 & 896002354
Housing	
CRC	896002476

### **What are the procedures for handling PCB fluorescent light ballast?**

Any fluorescent light ballast manufactured before 1998, except those marked “No PCB”, must be assumed to contain PCB’s. Fluorescent light ballast manufactured after 1998 can be assumed to be “no PCB’s”.

Gloves must be worn when removing or handling PCB ballasts. You might also need suitable goggles or other eye protection if there is potential for eye exposure.

All PCB ballasts and PCB contaminated items must be placed in a 55-gallon drum (or other suitable sealed container) when removed. Non-leaking PCB ballasts, leaking PCB ballasts and PCB contaminated items need to be stored in separate containers. Do not co-mingle the different types of PCB materials. Leaking PCB ballasts need to have sufficient material in the disposal container to absorb the liquid.

All containers must be kept tightly sealed. They must be marked with the PCB label and have a log of the date and amounts added to the container. Waste containers can only be stored in the work area (not in public spaces) for 30 days after the first PCB ballast is added to the container. By the 31<sup>st</sup> day, the container must be stored inside the Hazardous Waste storage shed behind the curb. See the last page of this procedure for PCB log sheet and PCB label.

### **What are the PCB spill procedures?**

#### **For spills that involve 1 lb or less of PCB**

Note this is the weight of just the PCB, not the weight of the entire spilled material. This equates to less than 270 gallons of liquid that has <500 ppm PCB.

Site control – Barricade the contaminated area and prevent people from entering the site to reduce the spread of the PCB contamination.

Notification – Notify EHS for all PCB spills that contaminate surface water, sewer, and drinking water or that contaminate vegetable garden or grazing land so they can notify EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substance Branch.

Clean up - Non-porous materials that are contaminated with PCB's can be cleaned using an appropriate solvent. Non-porous materials must be double washed and rinsed with the solvent in order to ensure they are clean. Porous materials that are contaminated with PCB, materials that cannot be cleaned and rags used for cleaning rags must be disposed of as described above. PCB spills must be cleaned up within 48 hours after discovering the spill. See 40 CFR 761 Subpart S for cleaning details.

Clearance samples – Indoor residential areas must be cleaned to 10 µg PCB/100 cm<sup>2</sup> as measured by standard wipe tests.

**For spills that involve greater than 1 lb of PCB**

Contact EHS for instructions

## PCB Ballast log sheet

Date	# of Ballasts	Date	# of Ballasts
Barrel must be moved to the Haz Waste shed within 30 days from the first date			

