

## BASIC WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

### I. Why is characterization important?

1. Determines what you have so you know which regulations must be followed for environmental protection and health/safety (page 2-1)
2. Avoid violations often found during inspections

### II. Waste characterization steps (page 2-20)

#### 1. Determining what you have

- Doing waste survey to find out what is on-site (page 2-2)
- Is the unwanted material a product (page 2-18), solid waste speculative accumulation (page 2-5), hazardous waste speculative accumulation (page 2-18)? (Material Exchanges [www.michigan.gov/degrecycling](http://www.michigan.gov/degrecycling))
- Identifying what regulations apply and where to find the regulations (page 2-1)
  - Solid waste (non hazardous) Part 115 of Act 451 (page 2-5)
  - Scrap tires Part 169 of Act 451 (page 2-7)
  - Medical waste Part 138 of Act 368 (page 2-67)
  - Radioactive waste Part 135 of Act 368 (page 2-62 and Chapter 10)
  - Septage Part 117 of Act 451 (Water Bureau) (Chapter 3)
  - PCB wastes Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (page 2-53 and Chapter 4.5)
  - Liquid industrial waste (non hazardous liquids) Part 121 of Act 451 (page 2-9)
  - Hazardous waste Part 111 of Act 451 (page 2-12)

Regulations can be found at [www.michigan.gov/deg](http://www.michigan.gov/deg) and select DEQ Laws and Rules in right column, or go to the respective program links from [www.michigan.gov/degwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/degwaste), except Septage which is found at [www.michigan.gov/degseptage](http://www.michigan.gov/degseptage)

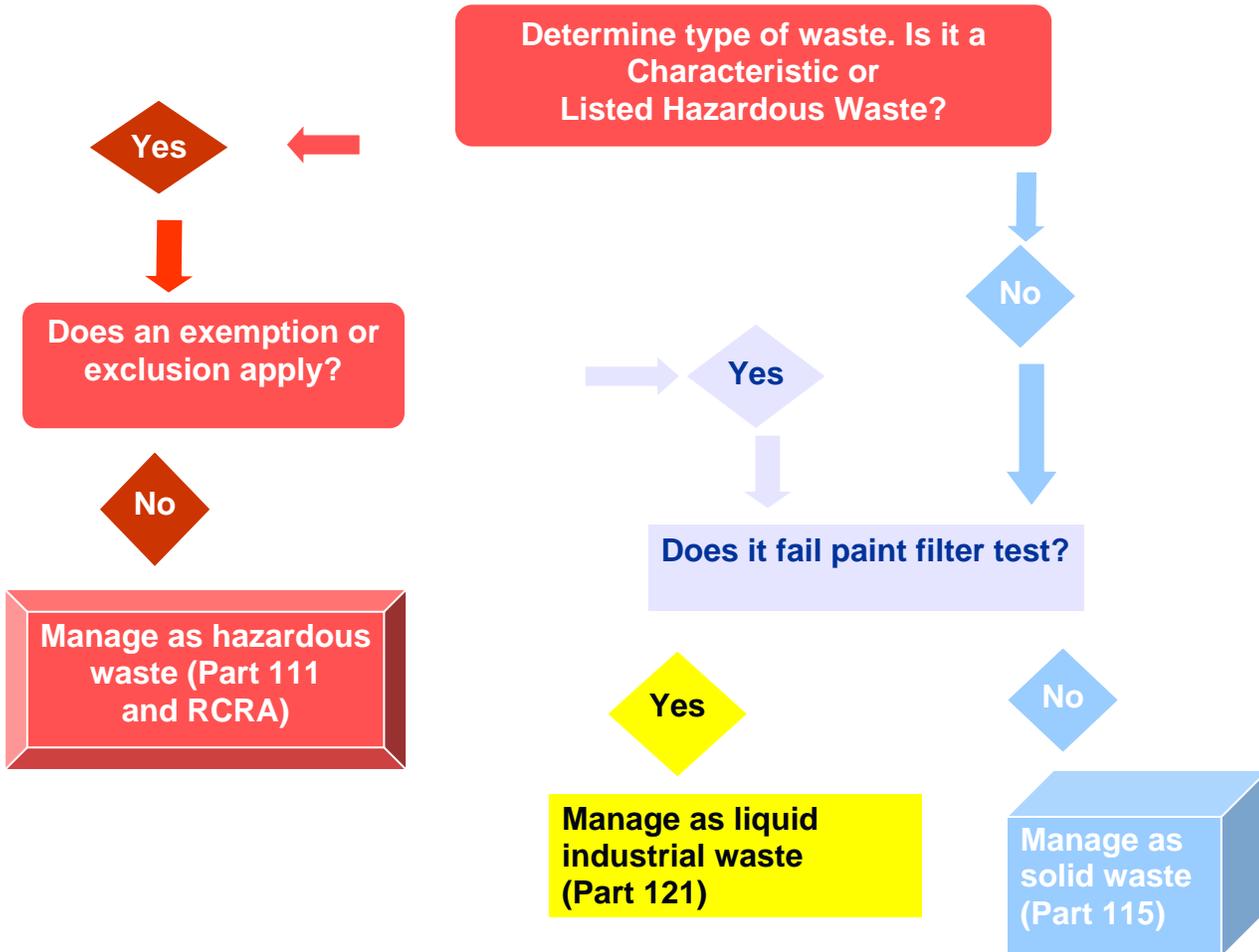
- Using knowledge and testing (page 2-20), common lab tests (page 2-22), sampling and finding testing laboratories (page 2-21)
- Commonly mischaracterized wastes (page 2-23)
- Is the waste a "listed" hazardous waste? (page 2-13)
  - F listed R 299.9214; Table 203a in R 299.9220
  - K listed R 299.9214; Table 204a in R 299.9222 and Table 204b in R 299.9223
  - P listed R 299.9214; Table 205a in R 299.9224
  - U listed R 299.9214; Table 205b in R 299.9225 and Table 205c in R 299.9226
  - Mixtures and derived from rules
- Does the waste exhibit a characteristic of hazardous waste? (page 2-14)
  - Ignitable R 299.9212(1)
  - Corrosive R 299.9212(2)
  - Reactive R 299.9212(3)
  - Toxicity R 299.9212(4) and Table 201a in R 299.9217
  - Severely toxic R 299.9212(5) and Table 202 in R 299.9219
- Does the waste exhibit any other characteristics under the Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) regulations? Page 2-37
- Does any hazardous waste exclusion listed in R 299.9204 apply, or does an exclusion or restriction listed in R 299.9202, 299.9228, and Part 8 of rules apply to the specific waste? Common exemptions/exclusions (page 2-17)
  - Wastewater discharge (page 2-19)
  - Scrap metal (page 2-62), precious metals (page 2-60), aerosol cans (page 2-58), drained oil filters (page 2-50)
  - Lab samples (page 2-18)
  - Rags and other textiles (page 2-54)
  - Empty Containers (page 2-19)
  - Universal waste (page 2-16)
- Use information to determine regulated waste activities
  - ✓ Universal waste handler (page 2-16)
  - ✓ Hazardous waste generator (page 2-25)



Need help? Contact:

- Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) and waste haulers
- Consultants
- Environmental Assistance Center 800-662-9278
- Your DEQ District Office (see Appendix C)

### REVIEW OF WASTE DETERMINATIONS BASIC STEPS



NOTES: