



## NICNAS Existing Chemicals Information Sheet

### Options for Disposal of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Waste October 2009

The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) regularly receives enquiries about waste disposal options for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). PFOS is an ingredient in certain Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) and Alcohol-Type Concentrate (ATC) fire fighting foams used to extinguish Class B fires that involve flammable fuels such as gasoline, greases and oils.

NICNAS recommended that the use of the chemical PFOS, in Australia, be restricted to essential uses only for which no suitable and less hazardous alternatives are available. Further information on essential uses of PFOS in Australia can be accessed at [http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS\\_Alerts.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Alerts.asp)

This document has been prepared as a guide to assist persons interested in disposal options for PFOS waste in their locale. In preparing the document, NICNAS sought advice from State and Territory agencies on options for disposal of PFOS waste. A compilation of the advice received from the States and Territories is given in Table 1 along with contact details for the local waste disposal authorities. Users of PFOS products may also wish to contact their suppliers to discuss options for disposal of PFOS waste. More information about PFOS can be obtained from the NICNAS web site at: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au).

**Table 1 PFOS - Waste Disposal in States and Territories**

<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	No specific local capability for the treatment of PFOS waste is available. Transport of PFOS waste to another jurisdiction with a suitably licensed facility for destruction or treatment is subject to conditions as described by the National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure.  Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice:  Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601. Ph:13 22 81  <a href="http://www.environment.act.gov.au/home">http://www.environment.act.gov.au/home</a>
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<p><b>New South Wales</b></p>	<p>No liquid waste destruction facility or specific local capabilities for the treatment of PFOS waste is available. The New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change recommend the waste generator contact the manufacturer or supplier to seek advice regarding best practice disposal of PFOS waste to ensure destruction. PFOS Waste must be tracked when transported within NSW.</p> <p>Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice:</p> <p>Department of Environment and Climate Change PO Box A290, Sydney South, NSW 1232. Ph:(02)9995 5000</p> <p><a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/</a></p>
<p><b>Queensland</b></p>	<p>The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management recommend that some facilities may be in a position to manage PFOS waste. The waste generator should contact regulated waste treatment/disposal facilities to seek advice if the facility is licensed to handle such waste.</p> <p>Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice:</p> <p>Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street, QLD 4002. Ph:(07)3227 7111</p> <p><a href="http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/">http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/</a></p>
<p><b>Tasmania</b></p>	<p>No specific local capability for the treatment of PFOS waste is available. Transport of PFOS waste to another jurisdiction with an approved treatment facility would be required.</p> <p>Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice:</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries, Water &amp; Environment GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania 7001. Ph:1300 368 550</p> <p><a href="http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/">http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/</a></p>
<p><b>Northern Territory</b></p>	<p>No specific local capability for the treatment of PFOS waste is available in the Northern Territory. The NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) advise that PFOS based fire-fighting foam is not used by the NTFRS.</p> <p>Where PFOS waste is generated the manufacturer is the primary contact for seeking information on disposal options. The Environment, Heritage and the Arts Division (EHA) of the Department of Natural Resources Environment, the Arts and Sport recommends that any PFOS containing waste must be collected and transported by licensed contractors and can only be received by licensed facilities capable of handling and treating this waste. Anyone holding PFOS containing waste should take note of licensed NT waste contractors listed under the Waste Management and Pollution Control Register.</p> <p>Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice:</p> <p>Environment, Heritage and Arts Division, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Arts &amp; Sport PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831. Ph:(08)8924 4050</p> <p><a href="http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/">http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/</a></p>

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<b>South Australia</b>	<p>PFOS waste is managed as a listed waste in accordance with schedule 1 of South Australia's <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>. This ensures that the waste is collected and transported by licensed contractors and can only be received by licensed facilities capable of handling and treating this waste.</p> <p>Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: Environment Protection Authority (SA) GPO Box 2607, Adelaide 5001, South Australia. Ph: (08) 8204 2000 <a href="http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/index.html">http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/index.html</a></p>
<b>Victoria</b>	<p>PFOS-waste is to be managed as a Prescribed Waste in accordance with the requirements of Victoria's Environment Protection (Prescribed Waste) Regulations. This entails ensuring the waste is transported by permitted vehicles with tracked movement and is only received by licensed facilities.</p> <p>Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria GPO Box 4395QQ, Melbourne, VIC 3001. Ph: (03)9695 2722 <a href="http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/">http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/</a></p>
<b>Western Australia</b>	<p>Disposal of solid PFOS-waste to Class IV landfill may be possible if the PFOS levels in soil relevant to contaminated sites are within the levels allowed into a class IV landfill. Disposal of liquid PFOS waste would require transport interstate for treatment.</p> <p>Information about private waste contractors can be found at: <a href="http://www.wastenet.net.au/">http://www.wastenet.net.au/</a></p> <p>For information relating to regulation of waste transport, please contact: The Department of Environment and Conservation Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983. Ph: (08) 6467 5000 <a href="http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/">http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/</a></p>