Options for Disposal of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Waste

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 - such as certain Class B fire fighting foams. Further information on essential uses of PFOS in Australia can be accessed at http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/pdf/Alert_2_PFOS.pdf

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

Table 1 PFOS - Waste Disposal in States and Territories

| Australian Capital Territory | 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: Environment ACT, PO Box 144, Lyneham, ACT 2602. Ph: (02) 6207 9777 http://www.environment.act.gov.au/ |
| New South Wales | No liquid waste destruction facility or specific local capabilities for the treatment of PFOS waste is available. The New South Wales Department of Environment & Conservation recommends the waste generator contact the manufacturer or supplier to: - seek advice regarding best practice disposal of PFOS waste to ensure destruction. |
| Tasmania | 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. Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment, 134 Macquarie St, Hobart, TAS 7001. Ph: (03) 6233 6518 http://www.pirwe.tas.gov.au/ |
### Northern Territory
No specific local capability for the treatment of PFOS waste is available. Fire and emergency rescue services advise that PFOS based fire-fighting foam is not used in the Northern Territory. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) recommends that where PFOS waste is generated, the generator should contact the OEH to identify treatment options for this waste.

Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: Northern Territory Government Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment, GPO Box 1680, Darwin 0801. Ph: (08) 8999 5511


### Queensland
No specific local capability for the treatment of PFOS waste is available. The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (QLD EPA) recommends that defined areas where PFOS-based fire fighting foam is used repeatedly be bunded to ensure PFOS-waste is channelled to a wastewater treatment system.

Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Queensland, PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street, QLD 4002. Ph: (07) 3327 7111

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/

### South Australia
PFOS waste is managed as a listed waste in accordance with schedule 1 of South Australia’s Environment Protection Act 1993. 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.

Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: South Australia Environment Protection Authority (EPA), GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001. Ph: (08) 8204 2000


### Victoria
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.

Please contact the local waste disposal authority for further advice: Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, GPO Box 4395GG, Melbourne, VIC 3001. Ph: (03) 9655 2722


### Western Australia
Disposal of solid PFOS-waste to Class IV landfill is available. Disposal of liquid PFOS waste would require transport interstate for treatment.

For information about private waste contractors, use the WasteNet site:

http://www.wastenet.net.au

For information relating to regulation of waste transport, please contact the Department of Environment, Western Australia, PO Box K322, Perth, WA 6842. Ph: (08) 9222 7000