



SOUTH PLACER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

FAQS

DENTAL OFFICE CATEGORY RULE (40 CFR PART 441)

Q1. Who is subject to this rule?

A facility where the practice of dentistry is performed, including, but not limited to, institutions, permanent or temporary offices, clinics, home offices, and facilities owned and operated by federal, state or local governments, that discharges amalgam process wastewater to the sewer system.

Q2. Who is exempt from the rule?

- A dental office that exclusively practices one or more of the following dental specialties: oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics;
- A mobile unit operated by a dental practice discharging amalgam process wastewater; and
- A Practice of Dentistry that does not place dental amalgam and does not remove amalgam except in limited emergency or unplanned, unanticipated circumstances, and that certify such to the South Placer Municipal Utility District.

Q3. What are the dental rule requirements?

The ruling has mandated the use of an amalgam separator, and the implementation of **best management practices (BMPs)** which prohibit the use of oxidizers in dental effluent water and requires a one-time certification of compliance for those subject under it.

Q4. What are the Best Management Practices (BMPs)?

- Dental practices are prohibited from discharging waste amalgam including, but not limited to, dental amalgam from chair-side traps, screens, vacuum pump filters, dental tools, cuspidors, or collection devices to the sewer system.
- Dental unit water lines, chair-side traps, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater to the sewer system must not be cleaned with oxidizing or acidic cleaners, including but not limited to bleach, chlorine, iodine and peroxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8.

Q5. Is there a compliance due date?

Existing dental offices must comply with the rule by July 14, 2020. For any new facility where amalgam process wastewater is being discharged to the sewer, the compliance due date is immediate, upon discharge.

Q6. Are there any reporting requirements?

For an existing dental office, a one-time compliance report must be submitted to the South Placer Municipal Utility District no later than October 12, 2020. For a new dental office, a one-time compliance report must be submitted to the South Placer Municipal Utility District no later than 90 days following the introduction of dental amalgam process wastewater into the sewer system.

Q7. Are there any record keeping requirements?

An agent or representative of the dental office must maintain the one-time compliance report and make it available for inspection in either physical or electronic form, for a minimum of three years.

Q8. What type of Amalgam Separator can be installed?

The amalgam separator must be compliant with either the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) American National Standard/American dental Association (ADA) Specification 108 for Amalgam Separators (2009) with Technical Addendum (2011) or the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11143 Standard (2008) or subsequent versions so long as that version requires amalgam separators to achieve at least a 95% removal efficiency.

The amalgam separator must be sized to accommodate the maximum discharge rate of amalgam process wastewater.

Q9. Does an existing Amalgam Separator need to be replaced?

No, an amalgam separator that was installed at a dental Office prior to July 14, 2017 satisfies the requirement for the remaining useful life not to exceed 10 years, or until the existing separator is replaced, or 10 years after July 14, 2017, whichever is sooner.

In the event that an amalgam separator is not functioning properly, the amalgam separator must be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual or replaced with a unit that meets the standard specified in Q8., but no later than 10 business days after the malfunction is discovered.

Q10. What is the penalty for noncompliance?

The dental office will be classified as a Categorical Industrial User.

Q11. How often should the Amalgam Separator be inspected?

The amalgam separator must be inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the separator and to confirm that all amalgam process wastewater is flowing through the amalgam retaining portion of the amalgam separator.

Q12. Where can I locate a Vendors list for purchasing an Amalgam Separator?

Contact the California dental Association at 800.232.7645 or 916.443.0505, or email to Contactcda@cda.org.

Q13. What happens if there is a change in ownership?

Since the one-time compliance report is non-transferrable, the new owner must submit a new One-time Compliance report within 90 days after transfer.

Q14. What is the average annual maintenance cost to maintain an Amalgam Separator?

The average annual maintenance cost to maintain a compliant amalgam separator is approximately \$800.00 / year.

Q15. What is the purchase and installation cost of an Amalgam Separator?

Depending on the maximum amalgam process wastewater discharge flow rate, the purchase and installation cost of the amalgam separator can range from \$500 to \$4,000.