



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
denr.sd.gov

November 20, 2019

Re: South Dakota Dental Effluent Guideline Rules

On June 14, 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the dental effluent guideline rules. This rule requires all dental offices in the United States which use or remove dental amalgam and discharge wastewater to a municipal sanitary sewer system to meet requirements to reduce the discharge of mercury. These rules can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 441. EPA has a guideline guide at www.epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR) is responsible for implementing this rule in South Dakota. This letter is being sent to assist dental offices with compliance to this rule.

To be compliant with the dental rule, dental offices that use and remove dental amalgam must:

1. Install and operate a solids separator that meets the ANSI/ADA 108-2009 or ISO 11143 standards or an equivalent solids separator that has a solids removal efficiency of 95%¹.
 - The separator(s) must be sized to meet the maximum wastewater flow rate.
 - The separator(s) must be installed and operated according to the manufacturer's specifications.
 - The separator(s) must be inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the separator(s).
 - In the event that a separator is not functioning properly, the separator must be repaired consistent with manufacturer instructions or replaced with a unit that meets the ANSI/ADA 108-2009 or ISO 11143 standard within 10 business days after the malfunction is discovered.

2. Follow best management practices:
 - Waste amalgam must not be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
 - Dental unit water lines that discharge wastewater to the sanitary sewer, 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.

¹ A dental office that operates an amalgam separator that was installed at the facility prior to June 14, 2017, will be in compliance of the rules until the existing separator is replaced with an ANSI/ADA 108-2009 or ISO 11143 compliant separator or until June 14, 2027, whichever is sooner.

3. Maintain the following documentation for inspection for a minimum of three years:
 - Documentation of the date, person(s) conducting an inspection, and the results of each inspection of the amalgam separator(s) or equivalent device(s), and a summary of follow-up actions, if needed.
 - Documentation of amalgam retaining container or equivalent container replacement (including the date, as applicable).
 - Documentation of all dates that collected dental amalgam is picked up or shipped for proper disposal in accordance with hazardous waste requirements, and the name of the permitted or licensed treatment, storage or disposal facility receiving the amalgam retaining containers.
 - Documentation of any repair or replacement of an amalgam separator or equivalent device, including the date, person(s) making the repair or replacement, and a description of the repair or replacement (including make and model).
 - The manufacturers operation manual for the current amalgam separator or equivalent device.

All dental offices must complete a One-Time Compliance Report, which is enclosed with this letter. The form should be filled out, signed, and sent to the SDDENR² at the following address:

SDDENR

Attn: Surface Water Quality Program

523 E. Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

If you have any questions or concerns about the dental effluent guidelines, please feel free to contact me at (605) 773-3351 or tina.mcfarling@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,



Tina McFarling, P.E.

Engineer III/State Pretreatment Coordinator

Surface Water Quality Program

Enclosures

² If your dental office is located in Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Mitchell, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, or Watertown, or a sanitary sewer system connected to one of these cities, please contact the city pretreatment coordinator for reporting requirements.