

FLUORESCENT TUBES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fluorescent light tubes are used in most USAG-HI facilities. Many models contain hazardous chemicals, such as mercury, requiring special procedures for the disposal of the lamps. Safer, more environmentally friendly low mercury models have been manufactured in recent years. All light bulbs on the installation should be changed through the DPW Work Order desk. This will ensure that the low mercury bulbs are installed in all facilities.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Small quantities of mercury, antimony, cadmium, barium, and lead are used to manufacture fluorescent bulbs and mercury vapor lamps, metal halide and high pressure sodium lamps.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Used fluorescent tubes that do not meet the low mercury standards are UNIVERSAL WASTE.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Step 1: Place used fluorescent tubes in the original container. Box must be able to be closed (do not cut end out of box).

Step 2: Label the box with “Universal Waste Lamps”.

Step 3: Date the box with the date the first used lamp is put in the box/container (used bulbs should not be maintained in area longer than 6 months).

Step 4: Always close container (with tape) after adding bulbs/lamps.

Step 5: Contact the DPW Environmental Division TAP for pickup.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NOTE: Broken tubes must be swept up, bagged and managed as HAZARDOUS WASTE.

For more info contact: DPW Environmental Compliance Inspections Program or the TAP.