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PCB: One of the most regulated substances in the United States

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The regulation of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) represents the full extent of powers granted to EPA by government regulation. PCB materials are heavily regulated by several governmental agencies including the EPA, DOT, and OSHA.

Equipment that contain PCB require labeling, are allowed very limited servicing, need schedules established for retirement and inspection, and must meet specific requirements for transportation, storage and disposal.

In 1985, in recognition of the dangers associated with PCB fires (production of Tetrachlorinated Dibenzodioxins and Tetrachlorinated Dibenzofurans), EPA promulgated further restriction on the use of PCB equipment. Such equipment now requires registration with local fire departments. Operation of equipment containing PCB is prohibited within flammable storage areas. Also, increased inspection, notification, and spill control protocols could be required.

In 1987, EPA promulgated a PCB Spill Cleanup Policy (TSCA). It establishes cleanup levels and methodologies for spill abatement. In addition, record-keeping requirements were established.

Today, materials containing PCB are regulated under the following:

**40 CFR 117 CWA • 40 CFR 51 CAA • 49 CFR 171 HMTA
40 CFR 265 RCRA • 40 CFR 302 CERCLA • 40 CFR 355 SARA-III
29 CFR 1904 OSHA • 40 CFR 761 TSCA • State and Local Regulations**



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