

October 5, 2018

Robert Rieck  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504-7600

SUBMITTED VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Dear Mr. Rieck:

Stericycle, Inc. (Stericycle) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) proposed rule: Draft Amendments to the Dangerous Waste Regulations, Chapter 173-303 WAC. Stericycle is a publically traded corporation (NASDAQ: SRCL) based in Lake Forest, Illinois. In 2017, we had estimated revenues of approximately \$3.56B. We operate over 250 medical and hazardous waste facilities for customers throughout the U.S. primarily in the healthcare field. Our services include compliant collection, transportation and treatment of medical waste, collection/disposal of pharmaceutical waste and hazardous waste, management of pharmaceutical and medical device recalls and returns for major drug and device manufacturers, and consulting/training programs to help educate our customers on the proper handling of these hazardous and regulated waste streams. Our corporate vision is to be leaders in "Protecting What Matters."

Stericycle submitted comments on December 19, 2017 to the regulations proposed at that time. Our main concern was related to the labeling requirements of containers of dangerous waste. We are still concerned with Ecology's response to our comments and the many others that voiced similar concerns with the labeling requirements. We appreciate Ecology's clarification that the vast majority of DOT, OSHA, or NFPA labels will meet their requirements and could be used. However, it is the requirement that still exists for WT02/toxic wastes that continues to present a concern. For example, many wastes qualify as WT02 toxic but do not meet a hazard classification other than perhaps class 9 under DOT. Having the word "toxic" on a label for such a container, but not the class 6.1 DOT toxic label, as it would not be required by DOT for many WT02 materials, could be confusing and contradictory to haulers, DOT inspectors, disposal facilities, and others that play an important role in the management of these wastes. However, Ecology continues to claim that this extraneous requirement is to provide information to the public in order to keep them safe. Stericycle believes that the existing Federal labeling requirements adequately protect the public, especially considering that the general public would typically have no exposure or opportunity to access, handle, or be near these containers in the first place. It is unreasonable to establish these additional labeling requirements that will cause substantial handling and compliance challenges for the industry users that manage waste on a daily basis, and provide minimal additional benefit to the protection of the public. The existing requirements to have the words "hazardous waste" or "dangerous waste" on the containers is

more than enough information for a member of the general public to know to stay away from such a container.

Lastly, considering much of the hazardous or dangerous waste generated in the state is shipped across state lines for treatment, it risks confusion in those other states. In some instances, when we have encountered labeling as a problem, we were told that we would have to keep the labeling while in storage, prior to transport, and if we needed to, we could remove the labeling for transport; the containers must then be again labeled when in storage at another storage area (like a TSD). This becomes very confusing for the generator and the TSD. Additionally, this results in multiple parties handling the waste, risk of spillage, and still the risk for human error, risking compliance (either forgetting to remove the labeling or putting it back on, etc.) all without any true health and safety benefit to anyone, including the general public. Proper marking and labeling of hazardous materials intended for transport should be marked/labeled at the time they are prepared and should remain as such throughout the transport process until final disposal per the Federal EPA and DOT PHMSA regulations.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this important rule. If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me at 847-943-6685 or via email at [shoboy@stericycle.com](mailto:shoboy@stericycle.com).

Sincerely,



Selin Hoboy  
VP of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Stericycle, Inc.

Enclosures

CC: Matt Marra – SVP Environmental Safety and Health, Stericycle, Inc.