

Understanding Connecticut's Mercury Thermostat Law



June 24, 2013

Background

- ▶ Mercury Thermostats banned from sale in Connecticut in 2004.
- ▶ Many thermostats remain in service and need to be properly managed.
- ▶ Typically 3–5 grams of mercury in a thermostat
- ▶ Legislation needed to prevent mercury thermostats from entering the waste stream



Manufacturer Responsibility

- ▶ Requires manufacturers to establish a program for collection and recycling of mercury thermostats by April of 2013
- ▶ Provide a collection container to any wholesaler, qualified contractor, retailer or municipality *that requests one*. May charge a one-time fee of up to \$75 for a container



Manufacturer Responsibility

- ▶ Provide educational material on proper management of mercury thermostats to participating collectors.
- ▶ Report to the Department, by April 1, 2014 and annually thereafter, the number of thermostats collected, self-evaluation of the effectiveness, list of participating collectors, and a cost accounting of administrative costs.
- ▶ May not sell any thermostats after July 1, 2014 if they are not in compliance with this act.



Wholesaler Responsibility

- ▶ By July 1, 2014, all wholesalers selling thermostats must participate in the program by serving as a collection point.
- ▶ Post visible signs of participation in the program
- ▶ Any wholesaler that does not participate as of July 1, 2014 may not sell any kind of thermostat.
- ▶ Shall not sell a thermostat from a non-compliant manufacturer



Retailer Responsibility

- ▶ May serve as a collection point. Manufacturer must provide them with a container if they request one.
- ▶ Post signage about the program if they decide to participate as a collection point.



Qualified Contractor Responsibilities

- ▶ “Qualified” defined as any contractor who employs seven or more service technicians or installers or who is located in an area outside of an urban area.
- ▶ May participate as a collection point as of April 1, 2013 if they request a container. Program may charge a one time fee of \$75.
- ▶ Must serve as a collection point as of July 1, 2014.
- ▶ Does not need to post visible signs as a collection point.



Qualified Contractor Responsibilities

- ▶ May not sell any kind of thermostat after July 1, 2014 if they are not serving as a collection point
- ▶ May not sell or distribute any thermostat from a non-compliant manufacturer



Disposal Ban

- ▶ Currently no regulated generator may dispose of a mercury thermostat in a solid waste facility in Connecticut
- ▶ As of July 1, 2014, all mercury thermostats, including residential, are banned from disposal
- ▶ No person can demolish a building without removing the mercury thermostats.
- ▶ Solid waste facilities are not in violation if they make a “good faith effort” to comply, post signage and informs haulers of disposal prohibition



Miscellaneous Provisions

- ▶ Department shall post a list of participating collection sites on our website
- ▶ Municipalities may participate as a collection point
- ▶ Department reports to legislature on performance of the program on January 1, 2017 and shall make recommendations to improve the program including statutory changes



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