



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



August 11, 2006

Mr. Matthew J. Twerdy, CHMM  
Supervisor Environmental, Health, & Safety  
Kaman Aerospace Corporation  
P.O. Box 2  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Re: Hazardous Waste Compactor Proposal

Dear Mr. Twerdy:

The Department of Environmental Protection (hereinafter "the Department") received your March 17, 2006 letter as well as your April 26 and May 17, 2006 e-mails regarding the potential use of a compaction unit at Kaman Aerospace Corporation's Bloomfield facility (hereinafter "Kaman").

The Department's Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance staff has reviewed these submittals. Based on our review of this information, Kaman appears to have two major concerns: (a) Whether the act of compacting hazardous waste is considered treatment as the term is defined in Subtitle C of RCRA in Connecticut; and (b) Whether Kaman would need a RCRA permit if it were to engage in hazardous waste compaction in a less-than-90-day storage area.

### Is Compaction Treatment?

The Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Regulations incorporate EPA's definition of "treatment" which reads as follows: "*Treatment* means any method, technique, or process, including neutralization, designed to change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any hazardous waste so as to neutralize such waste, or so as to recover energy or material resources from the waste, or so as to render such waste non-hazardous, or less hazardous; safer to transport, store, or dispose of; or amenable for recovery, amenable for storage, or reduced in volume." Connecticut has not made a categorical conclusion that compaction is/is not treatment and prefers to look at compaction scenarios on a case-by-case basis.

Based on the documentation you have provided, it does not appear that the compaction of the type of hazardous waste you described constitutes treatment since there is no apparent change in the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of the hazardous waste being compacted. Any volume reduction that may take place most likely would result from the removal of air space in the compaction container and not an actual reduction in the volume of hazardous waste itself. However, if the compaction process does change the physical or chemical character of the waste or removes/seperates some amount of the waste in the process, other than de minimis losses (i.e., liquids, vapors, etc.) that would be typical of filling the container by other non-mechanical means (i.e., hand loading), the process would be deemed treatment. *Example:* The compaction of aerosol cans pressurized with a flammable gas (D001), where the flammable gases released during compaction are directed to and captured in a control device (i.e., carbon filter), ultimately rendering the aerosol can itself non-hazardous would be deemed treatment.

**Does Hazardous Waste Compaction Require a Permit?**

As discussed above, your proposed compaction activity is not considered hazardous waste treatment, and therefore would not require a RCRA permit. In addition, you should also know that generators who are strictly compliant with the applicable provisions in Section 22a-449(c)-102(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, incorporating 40 CFR 262.34 (with specified changes) may treat hazardous waste generated on site without the need for a RCRA permit. Generators must comply with the applicable accumulation time limits, limit treatment to waste in accumulation units only, and ensure the treatment is not a thermal treatment.

If you have any questions, please call Paul Franson of my staff at (860) 424-3565.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Isner, Director  
Engineering and Enforcement Division  
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance

RCI/pif