



Vape Waste Management

Danielle Lesikar, Assistant Deputy Director
Waste Permits Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Who is TCEQ

- Environmental governmental agency
- Issue permits for treatment, storage, and disposal of waste

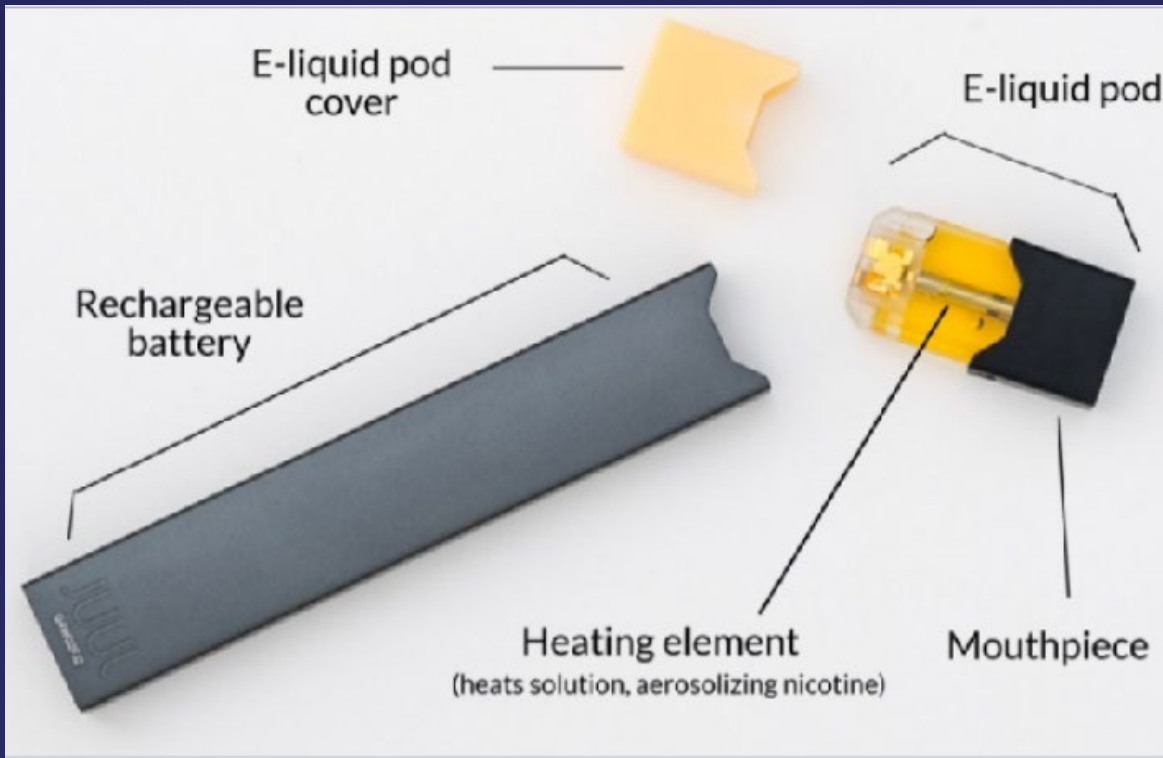


Components

- Vape waste components
 - Nicotine pod/cartridge
 - Lithium-ion battery
 - Misc. other pieces



Why is vape waste hazardous waste



- Regulate vapes as waste under Resource Conservation Recovery Act
- Should not be thrown in the trash
- Hazardous wastes pose a significant threat if they are mismanaged or mishandled
 - Nicotine – acute hazardous waste
 - Lithium-ion batteries – ignitable/reactive and can catch fire, especially when damaged

When is a vape considered waste

- A vape is considered a waste when it is discarded
- Vape waste discarded at a residence is household hazardous waste
- Vape waste discarded by a school, organization, or business is not a household hazardous waste

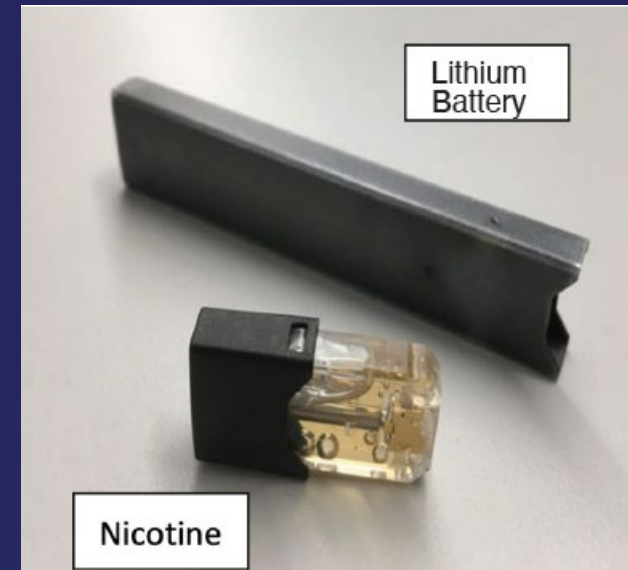
Storage Requirements

- Generator category depends on amounts of waste generated and stored monthly
 - Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) (no registration required)
 - Small Quantity Generator (SQG)
 - Large Quantity Generator (LQG)
- VSQG maximums
 - 2.2 pounds nicotine
 - 220 pounds of lithium batteries

Counting nicotine weight

Nicotine e-liquids – 2.2 pounds

- Approximately greater than 1,000 Juuls
- Approximately greater than 76 Elfbars
- Greater than 200 full 5-milliliter vials



Separation of wastes

Batteries only

- Can be handled as a universal waste and not a hazardous waste

Nicotine pods/cartridges only

- Acute hazardous waste
- 2.2 pounds max

Batteries and nicotine (can't separate device)

- Batteries 220 pounds max
- Nicotine 2.2 pounds max

Containing waste

- Sealed container
- Label needs to say “hazardous”
- If nicotine, say “toxic”
- If batteries and nicotine (can’t be separated), say “toxic” and “ignitable”
- Date of generation



Disposal of waste

- VSQG sends waste to an authorized facility
- VSQG consolidates waste with a LQG who sends to an authorized facility
- If unexpected large influx of waste, VSQG can notify TCEQ of an episodic waste generation event to keep from exceeding the VSQG threshold

Resources

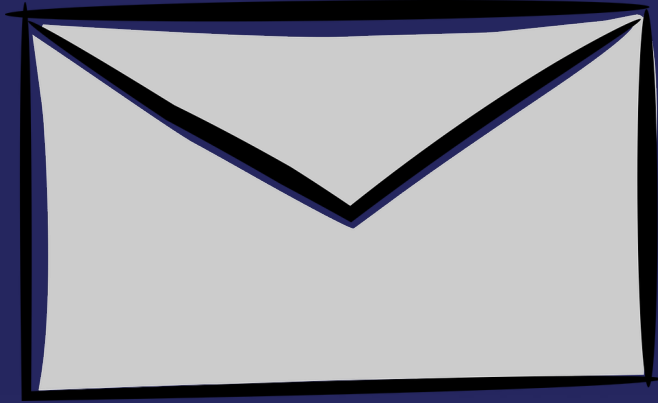
TCEQ

- [RG-661](#) - Regulatory Guidance document “Hazardous Waste Management of Confiscated E-cigarettes That Contain Lithium Batteries and Nicotine”
- [Industrial and Hazardous Waste Permits Section](#) website
- [Managing Universal Waste](#) website
- [GI 225](#) – Very Small Quantity Generator Waste Consolidation

EPA

- [Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling](#)
- [How to Safely Dispose of E-Cigarettes](#)

Contact Information



IHW Permits Section
512-239-2335
ihwper@tceq.texas.gov

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Industrial & Hazardous Waste Permits Section MC-130
P. O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087

Questions?

