



## Facilities Services

### Procedure for Handling and Disposal of PCB Capacitors or Light Ballasts containing PCB Capacitors

The following handling and disposal procedures apply to capacitors and ballasts containing capacitors that may contain PCBs. When intact, capacitors completely contain the PCB oils preventing any contact. These capacitors and ballasts are to be recycled in accordance with EPA recommendations. Light ballasts containing capacitors can be identified as follows:

1. Non-labeled, with date of manufacture before July 1, 1998 (assumed to be PCB containing).
2. Labeled as "PCB" or "Contains PCBs" or "PCB Containing".

Ballasts such as these are **NOT** to be disposed of as regular trash. Only those labeled as "NON-PCB" or "Does not contain PCBs" or "No PCBs", such as that pictured below may be disposed of in the Clark Dumpster.

College employees involved in removing capacitors and ballasts must wear nitrile or neoprene gloves and protective eyewear. Students are not to handle PCB capacitors or ballasts.

Non-leaking capacitors and ballasts without labels or those that contain PCBs should be removed and immediately placed directly into a bucket. The ballasts must never be placed on the floor or other surface. Light fixtures with the ballasts still attached must never be placed in storage or stacked.

When the work is completed, the ballasts should be brought to Central Stores and placed in the labeled drum outside Volatile Storage. Central Stores personnel are to be notified of ballasts being added to the labeled drum.

EHS will arrange for recycling of the ballasts, during which the PCB liquids are incinerated. All shipments will be as "non-hazardous waste".

If a leaking PCB-containing capacitor or ballast is found or suspected, EHS is to be notified immediately. Leaking PCB materials are typically oily substances. Campus personnel should not attempt to clean-up the oily material. The oily material should not be confused with the dark tarry potting material that frequently leaks from ballasts. The potting material does not contain PCBs. If an electrical current continues through the leaking potting material a burning odor may result. Turn off the light switch and open windows in the area – then proceed with the clean-up.

Ballast  
(contains  
Black  
Potting  
Material)

Capacitor  
(Metal Can  
containing  
PCB)

#### Summary of Health-Related Information

PCBs, also known as poly-chlorinated biphenyls, Chlorodiphenyls or Aroclors, are considered toxic and a potential occupational carcinogen. Overexposure can cause chloracne and liver damage. Contact with eyes and skin should not occur.

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<sup>1</sup>PCB ballasts are specifically exempted from both NYS Hazardous Waste and federal TSCA PCB regulations. The above procedure follows the EPA recommendations for ballasts.

40 CFR § 761 and 40 CFR 260

