

All State Agencies are currently required under ADEQ Regulation 23 to collect and properly dispose of/recycle their waste fluorescent lamps and can be fined if they are being disposed of improperly by being sent to a landfill.

According to Regulation 23 of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), all fluorescent light bulbs that contain mercury above the regulatory limit (0.2 mg/l) are considered Universal Waste. Universal Wastes must be collected and sent for recycling or disposal. Any fluorescent bulbs that are broken are considered hazardous waste and must be handled, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of as a hazardous waste. Bulb crushing is strongly discouraged by ADEQ as this will make the light bulbs a hazardous waste. Note that this regulations does not include the "green tip" bulbs that contain less than the regulatory limit of mercury. All state agencies, colleges, and universities should currently be collecting their spent fluorescent bulbs and sending them for recycling. The new law that goes into effect on January 1, 2008, bans all fluorescent light bulbs above the regulatory limit from being put in a landfill. This law (Arkansas Code § 8-14-104) will restrict everyone, including the general public, from disposing of fluorescent bulbs containing mercury above the regulatory limit in a landfill. As stated above, this restriction already applies to all Arkansas businesses, including state government agencies.

You can find more information in a Fact Sheet on the ADEQ website at this address:

http://www.adeg.state.ar.us/ftp/root/Pub/poa/brochures/05_Hazardous%20Waste/Universal%20Waste%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Lighting%20Waste.pdf

If you have any questions about this information, you can call the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at (501) 682-0923.