



Office of Environmental Health & Safety
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SAFETY ALERT

No. 05-08 DISCHARGE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS INTO SEWERS JUNE 2005

District schools with photographic laboratories are generally provided with silver-recovery systems to ensure wastewater discharges to the sewer are in compliance with regulatory agency requirements. Several OEHS inspections have noted that these systems have been disconnected, violating the applicable agency regulations.

Schools can generally comply with applicable City wastewater ordinances in one of two ways:

- 1) Installing a silver recovery system to treat photographic chemicals before discharge into the industrial wastewater sewer line; or
- 2) Collecting these wastes in an approved Department of Transportation (D.O.T) drum affixed with an appropriate hazardous waste label, and subsequently shipment to an approved off-site recycling facility.

Please note that all silver-recovery systems must be permitted by the applicable local agency. Please contact OEHS at (213) 241-3199 to apply for a permit, set up routine clean-up services or to arrange pick-up of photographic chemicals.

DISTRIBUTION: All Schools and Local District Offices