

Assembly Bill No. 1357

CHAPTER 778

An act to amend Sections 25200.2, 25218.2, 25218.9, 25404, and 25404.5 of, and to add Section 25201.4.1 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to hazardous waste.

[Approved by Governor October 7, 1997. Filed
with Secretary of State October 8, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1357, Baldwin. Unified program agencies.

Existing law requires hazardous waste facilities to operate under hazardous waste facilities permits issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Existing law requires the Secretary for Environmental Protection to implement a unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program. A city or local agency that meets specified requirements is authorized to apply to the secretary to implement the unified program and be certified as a certified unified program agency (CUPA), and every county is required to apply to the secretary to be certified to implement the unified program. A unified program agency is required to develop and implement a procedure for issuing a unified program facility permit. Existing law requires certain hazardous waste generators to submit a notice, under specified conditions, to the department and to the CUPA or authorized agency or officer.

Existing law, the Wright-Polanco-Lempert Hazardous Waste Treatment Permit Reform Act of 1992, deems a generator who conducts specified treatment activities to be conditionally authorized to operate without obtaining a hazardous waste facilities permit or other grant of authorization, and also conditionally exempts from hazardous waste facilities permit requirements a generator who treats not more than specified amounts of hazardous waste in any month, or generators conducting specified treatment processes, if specified requirements are met with regard to that hazardous waste.

A household hazardous waste facility is required to submit certain information to the department before commencing operations and the department is authorized to allow such a facility to accept hazardous waste from certain small quantity generators.

This bill would make various changes concerning the authority of CUPAs with regard to the hazardous waste element of the unified program. The bill would specify that persons subject to certain notification requirements are required to submit a notice to the

CUPA or to the authorized officer or agency and also to the department until specified regulations are adopted and the statewide data system is in place. The bill would require the notification for household hazardous waste collection facilities to be submitted to the CUPA or a specified local officer or agency and also to the department, until those conditions are met. The bill would exclude from the unified program the requirements imposed upon persons operating transportable treatment units, except as specified, and would require the department to report on the actual costs of managing the transportable hazardous waste treatment units, as prescribed.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 25200.2 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

25200.2. (a) The department shall develop a permitting process for transportable hazardous waste treatment units for treating hazardous waste in accordance with the federal act and in accordance with this chapter for hazardous wastes that are not otherwise subject to the federal act. The permitting process shall require the units to be permitted pursuant to the regulations of the department for operation pursuant to a permit-by-rule, a hazardous waste facilities permit, or pursuant to the regulations of the department for operation under a standardized permit adopted pursuant to Section 25201.6, whichever the department determines to be appropriate, by regulation, depending on the nature of the treatment units and the type of hazardous waste to be treated, and without regard to whether the units are determined to be onsite or offsite treatment units.

(b) (1) The operator of a transportable hazardous waste treatment unit shall pay the same annual fee as facilities authorized to operate pursuant to a permit-by-rule specified in subdivision (a) of Section 25205.14. The operator of a unit is exempt from paying the facility fee specified in Section 25205.2 for any year or reporting period during which the unit was operating for any activity authorized under permit, except as specified in subdivision (b) of Section 25205.12.

(2) The department shall report on the actual costs of managing the transportable hazardous waste treatment units in the annual onsite treatment report required pursuant to subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 25171.5. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Legislature may authorize the department to recover the costs to manage the transportable treatment units should the actual costs exceed the revenue raised by the fees specified in Section 25205.14.



(c) A transportable hazardous waste treatment unit operating pursuant to a hazardous waste facilities permit, a standardized permit, or pursuant to the department's regulations for operation under a permit-by-rule may operate at a facility for a period not to exceed one year. If the owner or operator of the transportable hazardous waste treatment unit shows cause, the department may authorize up to two extensions of this period, of six months duration, during which the transportable hazardous waste treatment unit may operate at the facility, if the department reviews the justification for the extension request after the first six-month period.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if, as of March 1, 1996, the department has not issued proposed regulations, or has not adopted emergency regulations, to implement the changes made to this section by the act adding this subdivision, until the department issues or adopts those regulations, the department shall regulate all transportable treatment units operating pursuant to a permit-by-rule on January 1, 1996, pursuant to the regulations adopted by the department with regard to permit-by-rule, and shall regulate all transportable treatment units operating pursuant to a hazardous waste facilities permit on January 1, 1996, pursuant to the regulations providing for a standardized permit.

SEC. 2. Section 25201.4.1 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

25201.4.1. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), any person subject to the notification requirements of Sections 25110.10, 25123.3, 25144.6, 25200.3, 25201.5, or 25201.14 shall only be required to submit the required notification to the CUPA, or, in those jurisdictions where there is no CUPA, to the officer or agency authorized pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 25404.3 to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404.

(b) Any person required to submit a notice pursuant to subdivision (a) is also required to submit the required notice to the department until (1) regulations promulgated by the Secretary for Environmental Protection establishing a unified program information collection and reporting system and standards are effective, (2) the regulations require a statewide data base system that will enable the department and the public to obtain the required information from all CUPAs or the authorized officers or agencies, and (3) the statewide data base system is in place and fully operational.

(c) A person conducting an activity that is not included within the scope of the hazardous waste element of the unified program, as specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, is required to submit a notice pursuant to Sections 25110.10, 25123.3, 25144.6, 25200.3, 25201.5, or 25201.14, but shall comply with any



regulations that the department may adopt specifying notification requirements for those activities.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (l) of Section 25200.3, any person who has submitted a notification to the CUPA, or, in those jurisdictions where there is no CUPA, to the officer or agency authorized pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 25404.3 to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section and subdivision (e) of Section 25200.3, shall be deemed to be operating pursuant to Section 25200.3, and, except as provided in Section 25404.5, shall be subject to the fee set forth in subdivision (b) of Section 25205.14 until the person submits a certification pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 25200.3.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (j) of Section 25201.5, any person who has submitted a notification to the CUPA, or, in those jurisdictions where there is no CUPA, to the officer or agency authorized pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 25404.3 to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section and paragraph (7) of subdivision (d) of Section 25201.5, shall be deemed to be operating pursuant to Section 25201.5, and, except as provided in Section 25404.5, shall be subject to the fee set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 25205.14 until the person submits a certification pursuant to subdivision (j) of Section 25201.5.

SEC. 3. Section 25218.2 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

25218.2. (a) Prior to commencing operations, a public agency, or its contractor, that intends to operate a household hazardous waste collection facility shall submit the following written information to the CUPA, or, in those jurisdictions where there is no CUPA, to the officer or agency authorized pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 25404.3 to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404:

(1) A certification that the household hazardous waste collection facility will be operated in accordance with this article and with any other requirement that may be imposed by the department by regulation.

(2) All of the following information:

- (A) The facility's name.
- (B) The facility's location.
- (C) The facility's generator identification number.
- (D) The date that the facility will begin operation.
- (E) The facility's operating schedule.

(b) In addition to the information required pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), the public agency, or its contractor, shall also subsequently notify the CUPA, or, in those jurisdictions where there



is no CUPA, the officer or agency authorized pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 25404.3 to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, of any significant change in the facility's operating schedule.

(c) The public agency, or its contractor, shall also submit the written information pursuant to subdivision (a), and notify the department pursuant to subdivision (b), until (1) regulations promulgated by the Secretary for Environmental Protection establishing a unified program information collection and reporting system and standards are effective, (2) the regulations require a statewide data base system that will enable the department and the public to obtain the required information from all CUPAs or the authorized officers or agencies, and (3) the statewide data base system is in place and fully operational.

SEC. 4. Section 25218.9 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

25218.9. On or before October 1 of each year, a public agency, or its contractor, operating a household hazardous waste collection facility shall submit to the CUPA, or, in those jurisdictions where there is no CUPA, to the officer or agency authorized pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 25404.3 to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, a copy of the completed California Integrated Waste Management Board Form 303, which is required to be submitted to that board for the prior fiscal year pursuant to regulations adopted by that board. The completed California Integrated Waste Management Board Form 303 shall also be submitted to the department until (1) regulations promulgated by the Secretary for Environmental Protection establishing a unified program information collection and reporting system and standards are effective, (2) the regulations require a statewide data base system that will enable the department and the public to obtain the required information from all CUPAs or the authorized officers or agencies, and (3) the statewide data base system is in place and fully operational.

SEC. 5. Section 25404 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

25404. (a) For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

(1) (A) "Certified Unified Program Agency" or "CUPA" means the agency certified by the secretary to implement the unified program specified in this chapter within a jurisdiction.

(B) "Participating Agency" or "PA" means an agency that has a written agreement with the CUPA pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 25404.3, and is approved by the secretary, to implement or enforce one or more of the unified program elements specified in subdivision (c), in accordance with Sections 25404.1 and 25404.2.



(C) “Unified Program Agency” or “UPA” means the CUPA, or its participating agencies to the extent each PA has been designated by the CUPA, pursuant to a written agreement, to implement or enforce a particular unified program element specified in subdivision (c). The UPAs have the responsibility and authority to implement and enforce the requirements listed in subdivision (c), and the regulations adopted to implement the requirements listed in subdivision (c), to the extent provided by Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100), Chapter 6.67 (commencing with Section 25270), Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 25280), Chapter 6.95 (commencing with Section 25500), and Sections 25404.1 and 25404.2. After a CUPA has been certified by the secretary, the unified program agencies shall be the only local agencies authorized to enforce the requirements listed in subdivision (c) within the jurisdiction of the CUPA.

(2) “Department” means the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

(3) “Secretary” means the Secretary for Environmental Protection.

(4) “Unified program facility” means all contiguous land and structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land that are subject to the requirements listed in subdivision (c) of Section 25404.

(5) “Unified program facility permit” means a permit issued pursuant to this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, a unified program facility permit encompasses the permitting requirements of Section 25284, and any permit or authorization requirements under any local ordinance or regulation relating to the generation or handling of hazardous waste or hazardous materials, but does not encompass the permitting requirements of a local ordinance that incorporates provisions of the Uniform Fire Code or the Uniform Building Code.

(b) The secretary shall adopt implementing regulations and implement a unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program, which shall be known as the unified program, after holding an appropriate number of public hearings throughout the state. The unified program shall be developed in close consultation with the director, the Director of the Office of Emergency Services, the State Fire Marshal, the executive officers and chairpersons of the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards, the local health officers, local fire services, and other appropriate officers of interested local agencies, and affected businesses and interested members of the public, including environmental organizations.

(c) The unified program shall consolidate the administration of the following requirements, and shall, to the maximum extent feasible within statutory constraints, ensure the coordination and



consistency of any regulations adopted pursuant to those requirements:

(1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the requirements of Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100), and the regulations adopted by the department pursuant thereto, applicable to hazardous waste generators, and persons operating pursuant to a permit-by-rule, conditional authorization, or conditional exemption, pursuant to Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100) or the regulations adopted by the department.

(B) The unified program shall not include the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 25200.3, the requirements of Sections 25200.10 and 25200.14, and the authority to issue an order under Sections 25187 and 25187.1, with regard to those portions of a unified program facility that are subject to one of the following:

(i) A corrective action order issued by the department pursuant to Section 25187.

(ii) An order issued by the department pursuant to Chapter 6.8 (commencing with Section 25300) or Chapter 6.85 (commencing with Section 25396).

(iii) A remedial action plan approved pursuant to Chapter 6.8 (commencing with Section 25300) or Chapter 6.85 (commencing with Section 25396).

(iv) A cleanup and abatement order issued by a California regional water quality control board pursuant to Section 13304 of the Water Code, to the extent that the cleanup and abatement order addresses the requirements of the applicable section or sections listed in this subparagraph.

(v) Corrective action required under subsection (u) of Section 6924 of Title 42 of the United States Code or subsection (h) of Section 6928 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(vi) An environmental assessment pursuant to Section 25200.14 or a corrective action pursuant to Section 25200.10 or paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 25200.3, that is being overseen by the department.

(C) The unified program shall not include the requirements of Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100), and the regulations adopted by the department pursuant thereto, applicable to persons operating transportable treatment units, except that any required notice regarding transportable treatment units shall also be provided to the CUPAs.

(2) The requirement of subdivision (c) of Section 25270.5 for owners and operators of aboveground storage tanks to prepare a spill prevention control and countermeasure plan.

(3) The requirements of Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 25280) concerning underground storage tanks, except for the responsibilities assigned to the State Water Resources Control Board



pursuant to Section 25297.1, and the requirements of any underground storage tank ordinance adopted by a city or county.

(4) The requirements of Article 1 (commencing with Section 25501) of Chapter 6.95 concerning hazardous material release response plans and inventories.

(5) The requirements of Article 2 (commencing with Section 25531) of Chapter 6.95, concerning the accidental release prevention program.

(6) The requirements of subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 80.103 of the Uniform Fire Code, as adopted by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 13143.9 of the Health and Safety Code, concerning hazardous material management plans and inventories.

(d) To the maximum extent feasible within statutory constraints, the secretary shall consolidate, coordinate, and make consistent these requirements of the unified program with other requirements imposed by other federal, state, regional, or local agencies upon facilities regulated by the unified program.

(e) The secretary shall establish standards to be used by CUPAs, participating agencies, state agencies, and businesses for the sharing of electronic data used within the programs listed in subdivision (c) of Section 25404. Those standards shall incorporate any standard developed under Section 25503.3.

SEC. 6. Section 25404.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

25404.5. (a) (1) Each certified unified program agency shall institute a single fee system, which shall replace the fees levied pursuant to Section 25205.14, except for transportable treatment units permitted under Section 25200.2, and which shall also replace any fees levied by a local agency pursuant to Sections 25143.10, 25287, 25513, and 25535.2, or any other fee levied by a local agency specifically to fund the implementation of the provisions specified in subdivision (c) of Section 25404. Notwithstanding Sections 25143.10, 25205.14, 25287, 25513, and 25535.2, a person who complies with the certified unified program agency's "single fee system" fee shall not be required to pay any fee levied pursuant to those sections, except for transportable treatment units permitted under Section 25200.2.

(2) The governing body of the certified unified program agency shall establish the amount to be paid by each person regulated by the unified program under the single fee system at a level sufficient to pay the necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the certified unified program agency and by any participating agency pursuant to the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 25404.3.

(3) The fee system may also be designed to recover the necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the certified unified program agency, or a participating agency pursuant to the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section



25404.3, in administering provisions other than those specified in subdivision (c) of Section 25404, if the implementation and enforcement of those provisions has been incorporated as part of the unified program by the certified unified program agency pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25404.2, and if the single fee system replaces any fees levied as of January 1, 1994, to fund the implementation of those additional provisions.

(4) The amount to be paid by a person regulated by the unified program may be adjusted to account for the differing costs of administering the unified program with respect to that person's regulated activities.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (d), the single fee system instituted by each certified unified program agency shall include an assessment on each person regulated by the unified program of a surcharge, the amount of which shall be determined by the secretary annually, to cover the necessary and reasonable costs of state agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under this chapter. The secretary may adjust the amount of the surcharge to be collected by different certified unified program agencies to reflect the different costs incurred by the state in supervising the implementation of the unified program in different jurisdictions, and in supervising the implementation of the unified program in those jurisdictions for which the secretary has waived the assessment of the surcharge pursuant to subdivision (d). The certified unified program agency may itemize the amount of the surcharge on any bill, invoice, or return that the agency sends to a person regulated by the unified program. Each certified unified program agency shall transmit all surcharge revenues collected to the secretary on a quarterly basis. The surcharge shall be deposited in the Unified Program Account, which is hereby created in the General Fund, and which may be expended, upon appropriation by the Legislature, by any state agency for the purposes of implementing this chapter.

(c) Each certified unified program agency and the secretary shall, before the institution of the single fee system and the assessment of the surcharge, implement a fee accountability program designed to encourage more efficient and cost-effective operation of the program for which the single fee and surcharge are assessed. The fee accountability programs shall include those elements of the requirements of the plan adopted pursuant to Section 25206 that the secretary determines are appropriate.

(d) The secretary may waive the requirement for a county to assess a surcharge pursuant to subdivision (b), if both of the following conditions apply:

(1) The county meets all of the following conditions:

(A) The county submits an application to the secretary for certification on or before January 1, 1996, that incorporates all of the requirements of this chapter, and includes the county's request for



a waiver of the surcharge, and contains documentation that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the secretary, both of the following:

(i) That the assessment of the surcharge will impose a significant economic burden on most businesses within the county.

(ii) That the combined dollar amount of the surcharge and the single fee system to be assessed by the county pursuant to subdivision (a) exceeds the combined dollar amount of all existing fees that are replaced by the single fee system for most businesses within the county.

(B) The application for certification, including the information required by subparagraph (A), is determined by the secretary to be complete, on or before April 30, 1996. The secretary, for good cause, may grant an extension of that deadline of up to 90 days.

(C) The county is certified by the secretary on or before December 31, 1996.

(D) On or before January 1, 1994, the county completed the consolidation of the administration of the hazardous waste generator program, the hazardous materials release response plans and inventories program, and the underground storage tank program, referenced in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, into a single program within the county's jurisdiction.

(E) The county demonstrates that it will consolidate the administration of all programs specified in subdivision (c) of Section 25404, and that it will also consolidate the administration of at least one additional program that regulates hazardous waste, hazardous substances, or hazardous materials, as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 25404.2, other than the programs specified in subdivision (c) of Section 25404, into a single program to be administered by a single agency in the county's jurisdiction at the time that the county's certification by the secretary becomes effective.

(2) The secretary makes all of the following findings:

(A) The county meets all of the criteria specified in paragraph (1).

(B) The assessment of the surcharge would impose a significant economic burden on most businesses within the county.

(C) The combined dollar amount of the surcharge and the single fee system to be assessed by the county pursuant to subdivision (a) would exceed the combined dollar amount of all existing fees that are replaced by the single fee system for most businesses within the county.

(D) The waiver of the surcharge for those counties applying for and qualifying for a waiver, and the resulting increase in the surcharge for other counties, would not, when considered cumulatively, impose a significant economic burden on businesses in any other county that does not apply for, or does not meet the criteria for, a waiver of the surcharge.



(e) The secretary shall review all of the requests for a waiver of the surcharge made pursuant to subdivision (d) simultaneously, so as to adequately assess the cumulative impact of granting the requested waivers on businesses in those counties that have not applied, or do not qualify, for a waiver, and shall grant or deny all requests for a waiver of the surcharge within 30 days from the date that the secretary certifies all counties applying, and qualifying, for a waiver. If the secretary finds that the grant of a waiver of the surcharge for all counties applying and qualifying for the waiver will impose a significant economic burden on businesses in one or more other counties, the secretary shall take either of the following actions:

(1) Deny all of the applications for a waiver of the surcharge.

(2) Approve only a portion of the waiver requests for counties meeting the criteria set forth in subdivision (d), to the extent that the approved waivers, when taken as a whole, meet the condition specified in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (d). In determining which of the counties' waiver requests to grant, the secretary shall consider all of the following factors:

(A) The relative degree to which the assessment of the surcharge will impose a significant economic burden on most businesses within each county applying and qualifying for a waiver.

(B) The relative degree to which the combined dollar amount of the surcharge and the single fee system to be assessed, pursuant to subdivision (a), by each county applying and qualifying for a waiver exceeds the combined dollar amount of all existing fees that are replaced by the single fee system for most businesses within the county.

(C) The relative extent to which each county applying and qualifying for a waiver has incorporated, or will incorporate, upon certification, additional programs pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 25404.2, into the unified program within the county's jurisdiction.

(f) The secretary may, at any time, terminate a county's waiver of the surcharge granted pursuant to subdivisions (d) and (e) if the secretary determines that the criteria specified in subdivision (d) for the grant of a waiver are no longer met.

