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**Review: The Complete Guide to the Hazardous Waste Regulations:
RCRA, TSCA, HTMA, OSHA and Superfund. 3d ed.**

By Travis P. Wagner

Reviewed by [John Lowe](#)
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Wagner, Travis P. *The Complete Guide to the Hazardous Waste Regulations: RCRA, TSCA, HTMA, OSHA and Superfund. 3d ed.* New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1999. 536 pp. US \$75. Hardcover, acid-free paper. ISBN: 0-471-29248-6.

The first Earth Day in 1970 represented a spirit of activism that reshaped public attitudes about environmental problems. Through the remainder of the 1970s and into the 1980s, these attitudes were transformed into policies, then laws and regulations. With regard to managing and cleaning up hazardous waste, the end results were CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or the Superfund), RCRA (the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act), and regulations specifically for PCBs under TSCA (the Toxic Substances Control Act). Hazardous waste management is one of the best examples of the "command and control" style of environmental regulation, and thousands of pages are devoted to the standards implementing CERCLA, RCRA and TSCA. Finding the needed information can be a daunting task for even the most experienced reader of regulations. While CD-ROMs and search engines on the Internet ease some of this pain, *The Complete Guide to the Hazardous Waste Regulations* is a welcome response to the mass of unwieldy regulations.

The book is a straightforward, readable summary of the regulations enforcing CERCLA, RCRA and the PCB requirements in TSCA. Discussions of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) and HTMA (Hazardous Materials Transportation Act) are incorporated as these apply to hazardous waste. Organization of the chapters mirrors presentation of the regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), so the reader can cross-reference the book contents with the regulatory language. Discussion of each section condenses pages of requirements into a few paragraphs each, which makes easier the job of understanding the purpose of a particular regulation. Flow charts and tables are used to good effect for organizing the information. There is both a table of contents and an extensive index to the book. A limited guide to Internet resources from state and federal agencies is also provided in the book.

I found the book more useful for developing a mental model of how the regulations are organized, compared with hypertext or search engines. This

could reflect a personal preference for books for quickly finding information on a specific topic. However, I feel that having the high-level overview provided by the book would reduce hit-or-miss searching and information overload when using CD-ROM hypertext links or Internet search engines. I found only one limitation with this presentation, which can be easily remedied by the reader: the book provided only limited discussion of the regulatory guidance implementing the regulations. While the rate at which new hazardous waste regulations are introduced has slowed in the past several years, guidance and technical information for implementing those regulations evolve constantly. Many topics are not covered in detail in the regulations, but are addressed more completely in guidance. A wealth of new sources for guidance and information on hazardous waste management and cleanup is readily available through the Internet. A comprehensive presentation of these sources of information is the topic of a separate article, though my list of bookmarks on this topic now runs into the dozens.

This book is a useful addition to the libraries of engineers, scientists, attorneys or environmental managers involved with hazardous waste management or cleanup. While not oriented towards the general reader, if you are interested about the process resulting from the call to action prompted by Earth Day and Love Canal, read this book.

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