

## **Are you in compliance with the New EPA Dental Amalgam rule?**

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The EPA announced *40 CFR Part 441 Effluent Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category* with an effective date of July 14, 2017 (for new offices) and October 12, 2020 (for facilities in operation prior to 7/14/2017). The new rule regulates mercury discharged in wastewater from dental facilities to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) or municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The rule requires dental offices that place and/or remove amalgam to:

- Install an ISO certified amalgam separator
- Implement two Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Submit a One-Time Compliance Report to the appropriate Control Authority
- Conduct ongoing operation and maintenance of the amalgam separator and maintain associated documentation

This rule does not apply to mobile units or facilities where the practice of dentistry consists only of the following: oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics. The Dental Rule is self-implementing in that the EPA expects all dental dischargers to know about and comply with the rule.