



Carbon Acceptance Frequently Asked Questions:

What is Carbon Acceptance?

Calgon Carbon cannot accept the return of any spent carbon until the material has been tested and approved for reactivation. This is necessary to ensure that the spent carbon can be handled and reactivated safely and that the quality of our reactivated carbon products is maintained. This process is called Carbon Acceptance.

How long does the approval process take?

Carbon Acceptance testing on routine samples typically requires 2-3 weeks from receipt of the sample and completed profile document to assignment of a Carbon Acceptance Number and notification to the customer that the spent carbon may be scheduled for return to our reactivation facility. If the customer has requested TCLP testing to aid in making the RCRA declaration, additional time will be required.

What is the cost of the testing?

The fee for carbon acceptance testing is \$400 (USD) for non-hazardous projects and \$1,000 (USD) for RCRA-hazardous projects.

How often must the carbon acceptance process be repeated?

Carbon acceptance is a recertification process that must be completed every five years. When a project has been approved for reactivation at one or more of our reactivation facilities, it is assigned a unique Carbon Acceptance Number (CAN) which will be used to identify the project throughout its lifetime.

How can I determine whether my spent carbon is RCRA-hazardous or not?

The customer is to declare the classification of the spent (exhausted) carbon as hazardous or non-hazardous under RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) regulations. Specific questions of applicability should be addressed to the RCRA Hotline or an environmental consultant; however, the following general guidelines may be helpful. In general, the spent carbon could be deemed hazardous if it has treated a listed waste or if it is a characteristic waste.

If the spent carbon has been used to treat a listed waste, it could be considered RCRA-hazardous by the "mixture and derived from rule." These hazardous waste codes begin with the following letters:

"F"– Non-specific sources

"K"– Specific sources

"P" and "U"– Discarded commercial chemical products, off-spec species, container residues and spill residues.

The spent carbon could be deemed hazardous by characteristic if it is Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003) or Toxic (D004 - D043). Toxic wastes are determined by TCLP testing (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure).

The TCLP analyses are performed on a sample extract which is prepared in a manner to simulate the climatic leaching action expected to occur in landfills. The solid sample (spent carbon) is extracted with one of the appropriate aqueous extraction (leaching) solutions described in the test method.

Analyses for specific metals, volatile organics, semi-volatile organics, pesticides and herbicides are performed on the leachate. If the concentration of any of the specified compounds is found to be present in the leachate above the regulatory level, the waste (spent carbon) is a CHARACTERISTIC WASTE and must carry the appropriate "D" code.

TCLP TESTING IS NOT PART OF THE STANDARD CARBON ACCEPTANCE TEST PROTOCOL. We can, however, have the test performed for you to assist you in making the RCRA determination for their spent carbon. Additional costs are incurred for this testing and the cost is dependent upon the particular compounds of interest. Contact your Applications Engineer for more information.

What is the proper DOT shipping name for spent carbon?

Although "Activated Carbon" is listed in the DOT Hazardous Materials Table as a spontaneously combustible material, all Calgon Carbon products manufactured for use in industrial, municipal or remediation projects have been tested, and it has been specifically determined that the products do not meet the definition of this hazard class. See the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for Calgon Carbon activated carbon for more details. The shipping name "Activated Carbon" and its associated shipping description from the DOT table must not be used to ship spent carbon to Calgon Carbon's reactivation facilities. Our plants are not permitted to accept shipments bearing that description.

The proper DOT shipping name for non-hazardous spent carbon is "Not Regulated" or "Scrap Carbon."

The proper DOT shipping name for RCRA hazardous spent carbon not meeting an RQ (Reportable Quantity) is: "Hazardous Waste, solid, n.o.s., 9, NA 3077, III, (plus waste codes)".

The proper DOT shipping name for RCRA hazardous spent carbon which contains an RQ (Reportable Quantity) of a hazardous substance is: "RQ, Hazardous Waste, solid, n.o.s., 9, NA 3077, III, (plus waste codes or the words 'contains substance name(s)')."