



Excerpts from:

Fact Sheet, February, 2009

Managing Empty Containers

Aerosol Containers *(from page 4)*

Aerosol containers are exempt from regulation when the container is emptied to the maximum extent practical under normal use provide that:

- The empty can is not regulated by the federal law under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and
- The aerosol container did not previously hold an acute or extremely hazardous waste.

Aerosol containers with hazardous material remaining in the container, including those due to a clogged nozzle, damaged valve, or loss of propellant, are not exempt from regulation and must be managed as hazardous wastes or managed as universal wastes pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 25201.16.

Commonly Asked Questions - Aerosol Containers: *(from page 7)*

Q. If I have an aerosol container with a clogged nozzle and I know that when I shake the container there is some liquid inside, is this can exempt from regulation?

A. No. Aerosol containers that are not or cannot be emptied of contents and propellant will not qualify for the exemption and should be managed as either hazardous or universal waste.

Q. If an aerosol can is empty to the maximum extent practical under normal use (i.e., I push the nozzle and nothing comes out and invert the container and I don't feel any liquid flow), is this container exempt from regulation? Can I puncture the container and send it for recycling?

A. Yes, but with an important caveat. Empty aerosol containers that did not previously hold acute or extremely hazardous waste are exempt from regulation and can be managed as non-hazardous waste. Puncturing or crushing exempt cans is not treatment of hazardous waste. However, since modern aerosol products often utilize flammable or explosive propellants, puncturing activities should be conducted only with proper aerosol-puncturing equipment that meets air-quality, OSHA, and other mandates.

For more information or to view the entire document, visit

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/upload/Managing-Empty-Containers.pdf>

