



Physics Division ESH Bulletin 94-3

PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS

Printed circuit boards that are recycled as scrap metal are not RCRA waste.

Reference: 40 CFR 261.6(a) (3) (iii)

Off-spec circuit boards (considered non-listed commercial chemical products under RCRA) that are recovered for reuse or are reworked are not RCRA waste.

Reference: 40 CFR 261.2(c) (3)

The EPA has applied a test of industry usage to address how the definition of scrap metal should apply to items that are not entirely made of metal: "If it is an item a scrap dealer will take, it is scrap metal."

Reference: Environmental Reporter, October 23, 1992, "RCRA and Non-Traditional Hazardous Wastes"

Collect printed circuit boards for recycle separately from other scrap metals - do not place them in the scrap metal dumpsters.

The firm that buys ORNL's scrap metal wants printed circuits boards separated from the other metal scrap. (Plus we get more money this way.)

If you want to scrap an instrument that contains circuit boards, you will need to dismantle the instrument and remove the circuit boards (and any lightbulbs, PCB-capacitors, or insulated wiring). You must dismantle the instrument anyway - to allow Health Physics to survey all of the internal surfaces.