



## Information to Obtain Before Utilizing a Hazardous Waste Vendor

In order to select an appropriate hazardous waste vendor, consider the following questions:

**1) Is the vendor properly permitted or “notified” for the transportation, storage, treatment and disposal of waste identified at your school?**

Hazardous waste transportation is regulated by several agencies including the US Department of Transportation (DOT), the Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the Colorado Department of Revenue Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Hazardous waste transporters must have an EPA identification (ID) number for the transportation of any hazardous waste that requires the use of a hazardous waste manifest. Hazardous waste transporters must also have a hazardous materials transportation permit issued by the PUC if their vehicle requires placarding under DOT requirements. In addition, a hazardous materials certification must be on the driver’s commercial driver’s license. Additional notification and permits may be needed if the transporter stores waste, or if the facility treats, disposes, or otherwise actively manages hazardous waste.

You can access permitting information by going to EPA’s Enforcement & Compliance History Online (ECHO) webpage: <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>. Click on “Hazardous Waste Search” on the left hand menu bar. The search results will indicate if a vendor is a properly permitted transporter with an EPA ID number and whether or not the number is active.

**2) Is the vendor able to demonstrate a good sound history of regulatory compliance?**

A company’s compliance history for air, water and hazardous waste requirements is available through EPA’s online [ECHO database](#). You will also see whether there have been any formal enforcement actions or penalties.

**3) Did the vendor provide a statement of qualifications (SOQ’s) including a list of capabilities and services (e.g. transportation, disposal, treatment, identification of unknowns, etc)?**

A statement of qualifications outlines why a vendor is qualified and suitable for your project.

**4) Is staff adequately trained?**

A permitted transporter of hazardous waste is required to have trained staff. The compliance history available through the [ECHO database](#) will show if there have been any training violations.

**5) Is the vendor equipped with procedures for dealing with unknown chemicals?**

Most hazardous waste transporters will be able to help you identify and/or dispose of unknown chemicals. You should ask the vendor of their capabilities.

**6) How will the vendor manage materials they are not equipped to handle?**

Ask your vendor to identify any subcontractors and for what activities they are utilized.

**7) Is the vendor able and willing to provide a list of references on past related projects?**

Ask your vendor to supply you with at least 3 references and follow-up with them.

