



# Disposal made easy for small quantities of tritium exit signs



## **Background**

EXIT signs that glow in the dark often contain a radioactive gas called tritium. These signs do not require electricity or batteries and can be used where it is hard to install electric signs, such as above doors.

Tritium, also known as  $3\text{H}$  or  $\text{H-3}$ , is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. In EXIT signs the gas is contained in sealed glass tubes lined with a light-emitting compound. The tritium gives off low-energy beta radiation that causes the lining to glow.

A tritium exit sign should glow green or red in the dark and should have a permanent warning label that mentions tritium,  $3\text{H}$  or  $\text{H-3}$ ; displays the three-bladed radiation warning symbol; and

states "Caution-Radioactive Materials." If all four letters in EXIT are fully lit, the sign is working properly. If not, the sign may be damaged or have reached the end of its working life.

## **Why proper disposal**

Manufacturers and distributors of tritium EXIT signs are "specific licensees," meaning they must apply for and receive a radioactive materials license from the NRC or an Agreement State.

Facilities that use tritium EXIT signs are considered "general licensees," meaning they do not need a specific license to use the signs. The signs, considered "generally licensed devices," are designed to be inherently safe so they can be used without the need for radiation training. However, the signs are still subject to

certain regulatory requirements and should be properly disposed.

Tritium EXIT signs must NOT be disposed of as normal trash. Damaged signs could contaminate the area and require expensive cleanup.

To dispose of a sign properly, a general licensee must transfer the sign to a specific licensee—such as a manufacturer, distributor, licensed radioactive waste broker or licensed low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

General licensees may be inspected by the NRC or an Agreement State and may face penalties for violating the regulations.



**Customized service**

We will work with you through the entire process to make sure you can safely handle, package and ship your tritium exit signs. Before shipping, we'll perform a quality control check to make sure all the paperwork is completed correctly to ensure the process goes as smooth as possible.

**Packaging & transportation**

Our ReturnPak kit meets the general package design requirements of 49 CFR 173.410 and comes with an attached prepaid return shipping label, UN2911 DOT label, bubble wrap for filling void space between the exit signs, instructions and pre-addressed transfer notification letters for you to mail to the NRC and appropriate state agency.

After you receive the kit, simply follow the instructions to fill, seal and ship the box using the prepaid return shipping label. Your box of tritium exit signs will be delivered to our approved processor within 3-5 business days. A confirmation letter of receipt and disposal is available upon request.

**Available container**

**Supply-334 ReturnPak Tritium Exit Sign Disposal Per Sign**

Size: Dependent on the number of signs requiring disposal. | Capacity: Varies

**Why Veolia?**

**Environmental compliance**

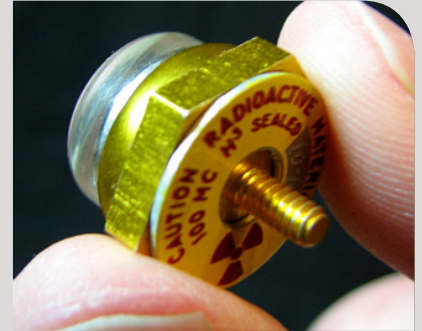
We maintain an excellent record of compliance with regulations governing health and safety and the environment. We follow procedures meticulously with our on-site teams, and continue to focus on the details throughout transportation, treatment and disposal.

**Financial strength**

Veolia is the international leader in providing environmental services for waste, water, and energy. With over \$29 billion in revenue, it is the largest environmental services company in the world.

**Technical expertise**

Our account, project and technical representatives understand hazardous and nonhazardous waste and the related regulatory requirements. Over 1,500 Veolia employees are ready to assist you in any way - from providing information about government regulations and answering technical questions regarding treatment alternatives, to training your employees and setting up disposal programs that save you time and money.



**About us**

From onsite pick-up to final treatment or disposal, Veolia North America's Environmental Solutions and Services group assures safety, environmental responsibility and regulatory compliance by channeling hazardous waste through our network of over 400 company-owned or certified service centers nationwide. These service centers include treatment, recovery and disposal facilities, sales offices and transportation locations.

**Key facts**

- 1,500 employees
- 400+ company owned or certified service centers
- 39 10-day in-transit facilities
- 14 permitted TSDFs
- 13 OSHA VPP and/or ISO certified facilities

**Waste managed**

- Lamps and ballast
- Batteries
- E-waste
- Mercury waste
- PCB & non-PCB electrical equipment
- Specialty medical devices and diagnostic equipment
- Medical waste sharps
- Tritium exit signs

For a full list of hazardous and non-hazardous waste services, visit:  
[www.veolianorthamerica.com](http://www.veolianorthamerica.com)  
 twitter: @veolia\_na

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