

For First Notice, Board Proposes Universal Waste Rules for Hazardous Waste Paints

On March 20, 2025, the Board proposed first-notice rules concerning “paint and paint-related waste” (PPRW) that are hazardous waste. The rules would regulate hazardous waste PPRW as a universal waste. This rulemaking was initiated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to comply with Public Act 103-887, which took effect on January 1, 2025.

Public Act 103-887 designated hazardous waste PPRW as a category of universal waste subject to the Board’s streamlined hazardous waste rules of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 733. Public Act 103-887 also required that IEPA, within 60 days after the legislation’s effective date, propose rules to the Board prescribing procedures and standards for managing hazardous waste PPRW as a universal waste. In addition, Public Act 103-887 requires that the Board adopt the rules within 180 days after receiving IEPA’s proposal.

Given this statutory deadline for final adoption, the Board proceeded to first notice with IEPA’s proposal, without commenting on its merits. In all, the Board proposed amendments to seven Parts of its rules: Parts 703, 720, 721, 724, 725, 728, and 733 (35 Ill. Adm. Code 703, 720, 721, 724, 725, 728, 733). Publication of the first-notice proposal in the *Illinois Register* will start a period of at least 45 days during which anyone may file with the Board a public comment on the proposed amendments.

The Board has scheduled two public hearings in this rulemaking, both to be held by videoconference between Springfield and Chicago. The first hearing will take place on April 16, 2025, and the second hearing will take place on May 20, 2025. For more specific hearing information, including deadlines for prefilings testimony, here is a link to the hearing officer’s March 20, 2025 [notice and order](#).

The rulemaking is captioned Standards for Universal Waste Management (35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 703, 720, 721, 724, 725, 728, and 733), docket R25-22. Here are links to (1) the Board’s first-notice [opinion and order](#); and (2) the Board’s first-notice [addendum](#), which includes the text of the proposed amendments. For more information, please contact Chloe Salk at 312-814-3932 or chloe.salk@illinois.gov.