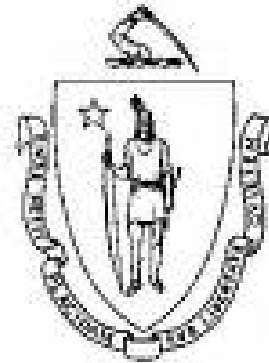


# Fact: Lamp Recycling is the Law

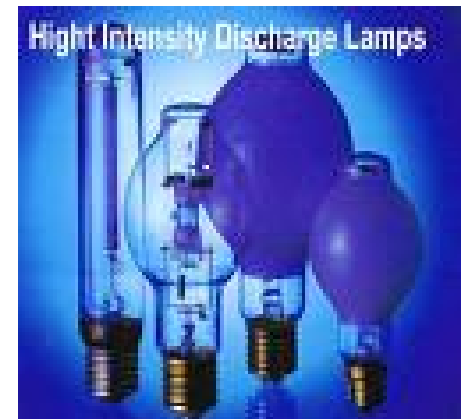
## The New Massachusetts Mercury Management Act



- ***Took effect May 1, 2008***
- Covers all mercury-containing lamps (including the “low mercury” lamps with green markings)
- Applies to businesses AND households
  - Including schools, healthcare facilities, state or local governments, etc.

# Examples of Mercury-Added Lamps

- Fluorescent tubes
- Compact fluorescent lamps
- Some neon lighting
- High intensity discharge lamps
  - Mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium, and short-arc mercury types



# Why is Mercury Disposal an Important Issue?

- Mercury is a toxic substance that can be harmful to human health
- Massachusetts has chosen to ban the disposal of all “end of life” mercury added products throughout the Commonwealth
- The new law requires all such products to be recycled at the end of their useful life

# How Much Mercury is in a Lamp?

Mercury Dose  
in low-dose  
lamps 3-4 mg



While the amount of mercury in a single lamp is tiny, cumulatively the mercury in lamps that could be released to the environment when lamps are broken represents a significant concern.

# How do I Handle Used Lamps?

## For businesses:

- Store unbroken “spent” lamps in a box or fiber drum to prevent breakage
- Keep that container in a secure, protected area
- Label the container “***Universal Waste – Spent Fluorescent Lamps***” and mark it with the date on which you first began storing them
- Have these lamps collected by – or deliver them to – an authorized lamp recycler, hazardous waste transporter or another universal waste handler **within one year of the date marked on the container**
- Find a recycling company on [www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org). There is an industry that specializes in this work, and several companies operate in Massachusetts

# How do I Handle Used Lamps?

## For households:

- Check [www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org) or [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) for lamp recycling options
- Municipal & Commercial Drop-Off Locations for Mercury-Added Product Recycling:  
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/hgres.htm#dispose>
- Your town/city household hazardous waste collection center may take spent CFLs and fluorescent tubes
- The Home Depot and IKEA both offer free CFL recycling in their stores, as may other local businesses

# What if I Choose Not to Follow These New Rules?

- You may be subject to enforcement action by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).
- You may be subject to a fine of as much as \$25,000 per violation per day.

# More Information

[www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org)



[www.almr.org](http://www.almr.org) (Association of Lighting and Mercury Recyclers)

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/hgres.htm>



Massachusetts  
Department  
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ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION