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**Proper Disposal of Paints and Thinners**

**1. Introduction**

This document outlines the procedures for the proper disposal of paints and thinners in a food manufacturing facility (NIC Code: 10101). Improper disposal of these materials can pose significant environmental and health risks. This procedure emphasizes safe handling, collection, and disposal in compliance with relevant regulations.

**2. Waste Segregation and Collection:**

* Designated Containers: Paints and thinners must be stored and disposed of in clearly labeled, leak-proof containers specifically designated for hazardous waste.
* Separate Storage: Never mix different types of paints or thinners. Keep them separated to prevent chemical reactions.
* Proper Labeling: All containers must be clearly labeled with the contents and hazard warnings.
* Regular Monitoring: Regularly monitor the fill level of the containers to ensure they are not overflowing.

**3. Disposal Methods:**

* Waste Contractor: Engage a licensed hazardous waste contractor for the disposal of paints and thinners. This ensures compliance with all environmental regulations.
* Waste Manifest: Maintain accurate records of the waste generated and its disposal, including the waste manifest provided by the contractor.
* Recycling: Explore options for recycling or reclaiming usable paint and thinner materials where possible.

**4. Compliance Notes:**

* Environmental Regulations: Compliance with all federal, state, and local environmental regulations pertaining to hazardous waste disposal is mandatory. Failure to comply can result in significant fines and penalties.
* SDS Compliance: Ensure all paints and thinners are handled according to their respective SDSs. The SDS provides crucial information on safe handling, storage, and disposal procedures.
* Record Keeping: Meticulous record-keeping is essential to demonstrate compliance with regulations. Maintain records of waste generation, disposal, and contractor information.

**5. Practical Guidelines:**

* Minimizing Waste: Implement strategies to minimize the use of paints and thinners, such as proper equipment maintenance and efficient application techniques.
* Training: Provide regular training to employees on the proper handling, storage, and disposal of paints and thinners.
* Regular Audits: Conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with this procedure and identify any potential areas for improvement.

**6. Appendix:**

* List of Licensed Hazardous Waste Contractors
* Sample Waste Manifest
* Contact information for relevant environmental agencies

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