



## Generator Guidelines:

### **Pick-Up Services for PCB-Containing Lighting Ballasts**



**Version 1 - Oct 1, 2012**

**DISCLAIMER:**

This information provided serves as a guide only for generators handling and storing PCB-containing lighting ballasts collected under the Product Care LightRecycle program. Product Care cannot assure with certainty the accuracy regarding PCB date stamps and labelling.

Nor is it intended to constitute or provide legal advice. It is the responsibility of the hazardous waste generator to be aware of and abide by any standards, acts, legislation and regulations under Local, Provincial or Federal law.

Product Care accepts no responsibility and assumes no liability resulting from the incorrect use of information in this guideline or from the use of this information in any circumstances other than those described.

## 1.0 Program Background

LightRecycle is a non-profit program to recycle lighting products in British Columbia. Since 2010, LightRecycle has accepted residential-use fluorescent lights at collection sites across the province. As of October 1, 2012 the program accepts all lighting products for recycling without charge, including all types of lights (bulbs and tubes), ballasts and lighting fixtures used in residential, institutional, commercial and industrial applications. Collection options differ based on the product and quantity to be recycled. For more information, please visit [www.lightrecycle.ca](http://www.lightrecycle.ca)

LightRecycle was developed in response to the requirements of the B.C. Recycling Regulation and is managed by Product Care Association, a non-profit industry association.

## 1.1 PCB-Containing Ballasts Background

Some lighting ballasts manufactured prior to July 1, 1980 contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and require special handling. The LightRecycle program will provide a pick-up service to generators with PCB-containing lighting ballasts generated in British Columbia without charge. To qualify for a pick-up service of PCB-containing lighting ballasts, generators must complete a declaration form and follow all relevant instructions included in these guidelines.

## 1.2 Additional Information Contact

For more information regarding this program or if you have any questions after reading this manual please contact:



Product Care Association  
105 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1E6

1-888-772-9772 ext. 213  
[brent@productcare.org](mailto:brent@productcare.org)



## 2.0 Lighting Ballasts

Lighting ballasts are replaceable components designed to regulate or transfer the electrical current/energy in a lighting fixture and may be present in fluorescent and other vapour lamps/lighting fixtures in your home, place of business or community institutions. Ballasts manufactured prior to 1980 may contain **Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)** based oils for cooling and insulation. PCB-containing lighting ballasts are classed as Waste Articles Containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (class 9, UN2315, PGII) under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDGR).



## 2.1 Locating Ballasts

Ballasts come in all shapes and sizes. The most common are associated with fluorescent lights and other vapour lamps, also known as high intensity discharge (HID) lamps. They are usually mounted on the lighting fixture between the fluorescent tubes and protected by a metal cover plate. In the case of lighting fixtures with one or more HID lamps, they may be contained in their own separate housing.

## 2.2 Identifying Ballasts that Contain PCBs

Ballasts manufactured after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1980 likely do not contain PCB oils. Generators can recycle their lighting fixtures and ballasts that do not contain PCBs through the scrap metal recycling system, given the high metal content and end-of-life value of these products. A number of recycling options are typically available for those with scrap metal (pick-up through recycling companies, drop-off at scrap metal sites etc.). For more information, including a list of collection sites that accept these products for recycling, please visit [www.lightrecycle.ca](http://www.lightrecycle.ca)



Ballasts containing PCBs on the other hand are hazardous waste. This information sheet will help you identify ballasts that contain PCBs and the process for contacting us for disposal.

The easiest way to tell the difference is to read the label on the ballast and look for **“non PCB,” “no PCB”** or **“PCB free”** wording. If this is **NOT** apparent, check the date/catalogue code of the ballast and refer to the following table:

## PCB-Containing Ballasts

MANUFACTURER	DATE CODE	CATALOGUE CODE
<b>AEROVOX –CANADA (AE)</b>	AE 7806 OR OLDER (first two digits are year & last two are the month June 1978 = 7806)	FIFTH DIGIT IS "F" F= contains PCBs
<b>AEROVOX –USA (AH)</b>	AH 7806 OR OLDER (first two digits are year & last two are the month June 1978 = 7806)	FIFTH UNIT IS "F" F= contains PCBs
<b>ADVANCE BALLASTS</b>	OLDER THAN 1-79 (Jan 1979 First two digits month, last two digits year)	
<b>ALLANSON</b>		
<i>Fluorescent Lamp ballasts</i>		Between "AA" (1969, Jan) and "LL" (1980, Dec) (first letter is year A=1969, second letter is month A=Jan)
<i>HID Lamps containing capacitors</i>	IF TYPE NUMBER LACKS "N"	Does <b>NOT</b> end in 'N' = contains PCBs
<b>CGE</b>	NUMBER 8703 AND OLDER (numbers are reversed March 1978 = 8703)	7 letter number digit code Does <b>NOT</b> end in E, E1, ER or EW= contains PCBs
<b>GE – USA</b>	Ends in N or A contains PCBs Ends in T = may contain PCBs	Does <b>NOT</b> end in E or W =contains PCBs
<b>HOLOPHANE CANADA</b> <i>HID lamp ballasts</i>	Capacitor BAAAnn (nnn - numeric sequence)	Does <b>NOT</b> end in BAB = contains PCBs
<b>MAGNATEK POLYGON</b>	"High Power Factor" appears on label or OLDER THAN (8007 = JULY 1980)	Does <b>NOT</b> have a green sticker = contains PCBs
<b>MAGNATEK UNIVERSAL – USA</b>	OLDER THAN A79 (Jan 1979) Alpha numeric A=Jan etc.	does <b>NOT</b> have 'N' in code or marked non-PCB = contains PCB's
<b>PHILLIPS</b>		
<i>Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts</i>	1279 OR OLDER (first two digits month & last two are year – Dec, 1979)	
<i>HID Ballasts</i>		MARKED "PCB"
<b>SOLA CANADA</b>		
<i>Fluorescent Ballast</i>	Three digit alpha and number code OLDER THAN A80 (Jan 1980)	A = Jan, etc
<i>HID</i>		Marked ACA =contains PCBs
<b>SOLA – USA</b>	Eight digit alpha and number code OLDER THAN: 79L311EG	A = Jan, etc
<b>WESTINGHOUSE CANADA</b>	SAME AS CGE	SAME AS CGE

**Ballasts not included on this table should be considered to contain PCBs if they were manufactured prior to July 1, 1980, do not have any markings to indicate their date of manufacture, or do not have any wording to indicate that they do not contain PCBs.**



Non-PCB ballasts will be **REFUSED** for transport. Non-PCB ballasts shipped as PCB ballasts will have their recycling costs charged to the generator.

### 2.3 Miscellaneous Ballasts

The pictures below show different types of lighting fixtures that may contain HID lamps and PCB-containing ballasts found in commercial and industrial facilities. For lights ballasts from other manufacturers than those listed above, assume that PCBs are present unless the unit is marked “non PCB,” “no PCB” or “PCB free” or is clearly dated 1980 or later.



### 3.0 Packaging PCB-Containing Ballasts



PCA will **NOT** accept any material that is not a PCB-containing lighting ballast. Debris and protective equipment is the responsibility of the generator and must be disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste contractor.

- Removed PCB-containing ballasts should be placed in a UN rated 205 Litre metal drum or a UN rated 20 Litre pail with a securely attached, close-fitting, removable lid.
- PCA will provide replacement drums on a one for one basis when drums are picked up for disposal.



Improperly packaged PCB ballasts will **NOT** be accepted. They will be refused by the transporter and it will become the responsibility of the generator to legally transport ballasts to the PCA approved receiver.

## 4.0 Storage

PCB-containing lighting ballasts must be stored in their approved containers in a secure, weather protected area. The containers must be on a sealed surface. Gravel, dirt or other permeable surface is not acceptable and any floor drains must be sealed.

Storage procedures must follow the requirements outlined in Part 3 of the Federal PCB Regulations under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act:

<http://ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/eng/regulations/detailReg.cfm?intReg=105>,

Please refer to the Compliance Promotion Guide on PCB Regulations for additional guidance:

[www.ec.gc.ca/bpc-pcb/default.asp?lang=En&n=78635459-1#SAPPC50](http://www.ec.gc.ca/bpc-pcb/default.asp?lang=En&n=78635459-1#SAPPC50)



## 5.0 Labelling

Containers containing PCBs must be labelled while in storage in accordance with Part 4 of the Federal PCB Regulations under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, stating:

The label must be black on white and no less than 36 points font. Record the date that the PCB-containing ballasts were packed into the container. Drums and containers supplied by PCA may have the appropriate label previously affixed. In all cases, generators are responsible for ensuring an appropriate label has been created and affixed to the collection container while in storage.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ATTENTION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contains 50 mg/kg or more of PCBs / contient 50 mg/kg ou plus de BPC</b></p> <p><b>Date of Commencement of Storage/Date de début de stockage: _____</b></p>
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## 6.0 Generator Registration Number

Generators that produce, store, or ship in a 30 day period, any volumes of PCB-containing lighting ballasts in excess of 5 kg (ballasts weigh 2 kg on average) are required under the BC Hazardous Waste Regulations (BCHWR) to register as a generator of hazardous waste in BC. See here: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/hazwaste/generators/index.htm](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/hazwaste/generators/index.htm)

PCA will **NOT** provide pick-up services unless a generator provides their generator registration number.

## 7.0 Reporting

As the owner of the PCB-containing ballasts you have responsibilities to maintain accurate records for a minimum of 5 years from end of use and to report annually. Please refer to Part 4 of the Federal PCB Regulations under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act:

[www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/eng/regulations/detailReg.cfm?intReg=105](http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/eng/regulations/detailReg.cfm?intReg=105)

## 8.0 Removal from Site and Disposal

To qualify for a pick-up, generators must first complete a declaration form to provide LightRecycle with all required information. Please contact LightRecycle at 1-888-772-9772 ext. 213 or [brent@productcare.org](mailto:brent@productcare.org) for a copy of this form. The form can also be accessed at [www.lightrecycle.ca](http://www.lightrecycle.ca)

Through the use of this declaration form, the generator must confirm that he/she:

1. Has properly identified and segregated PCB-containing lighting ballasts from other products and has ensured that no other products, such as lighting ballasts that do not contain PCBs, are placed in the collection containers for PCB-containing lighting ballasts.
2. Has Packaged the PCB-containing lighting ballasts in properly labelled, PCA approved collection containers in accordance with the guidelines provided by PCA to the Generator.
3. Will make the PCB-containing lighting ballasts available for pick up only by the PCA approved service provider dispatched by PCA for that purpose.
4. Has provided the Generator's BC Generator Registration Number, if applicable.
5. Has ensured the PCB ballasts were generated within British Columbia.

Please contact LightRecycle at 1-888-772-9772 ext. 213 or [brent@productcare.org](mailto:brent@productcare.org) when **all PCB-containing ballasts** are properly packaged at your site and are ready for pick-up. The program will then arrange for PCA approved service provider to pick up the materials from your site.

## 8.0 Health and Safety

Although they are not harmful to humans while contained in ballasts, PCBs present a hazard to the environment and can be especially hazardous in a fire, producing toxic vapours when burned. For more information regarding the health risks of PCBs please refer to Health Canada at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/alt\\_formats/pacrb-dgapcr/pdf/iyh-vsv/environ/pcb-bpc-eng.pdf](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/alt_formats/pacrb-dgapcr/pdf/iyh-vsv/environ/pcb-bpc-eng.pdf).