

In addition to the federal requirements, states and local authorities may require further pretreatment in order to ensure effective operation of POTWs, avoid contamination of sludges or deal with undesirable local environmental impacts.

More severe restrictions can be anticipated for toxic discharged by industry, with a view to achieving very high quality sludges and compliance with water quality criteria.

NEW SLUDGE REGULATION (National Sewage Sludge Rule)

This rule was authorized by the EPA's administrator in November 1992. It sets requirements for heavy-metal and pathogenic micro-organism concentrations, and in the case of incineration, it sets limits on total hydrocarbon concentrations in emissions. Its aim is re-use of sludges as well as their controlled disposal. This is to be achieved through:

- . application on farmland, forests, gardens etc;
- . disposal at identified surface sites or landfill sites reserved solely for this purpose;
- . incineration at facilities set aside for sludges.

NEW NATIONAL REGULATION ON TOXIC POLLUTANTS -- WATER QUALITY CRITERIA (National Toxic Rule)

This regulation, issued in December 1992, sets national water quality standards for toxic pollutants applicable to all states. The criteria are based on risk levels and will mean even more restrictive requirements imposed on POTWs, which will in turn necessitate a higher quality for industrial effluent.

Moreover, POTWs and companies discharging their effluent into what the EPA calls toxic hot spots will have to develop control strategies on a priority basis.