

## REQUIREMENT TO INSTALL AMALGAM SEPARATORS IN NEW DENTAL FACILITIES

**1. ISSUE:** On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a [Final Rule](#) in the *Federal Register* requiring all new dental clinics to install Amalgam Separators, effective July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**2. BACKGROUND:** Amalgam Separators are used in dental facilities to separate dental amalgam from wastewater before it enters sanitary sewer systems. This includes dental vacuum and cuspidor discharge streams. The *Final Rule* requires all new dental clinics to install amalgam separators. In addition, existing dental clinics must be brought into compliance no later than July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**3. DISCUSSION:** VA is in the process of updating its design and construction criteria to comply with the *Final Rule*. This *Standards Alert* serves as an interim requirement.

**4. NEW STANDARD:** All new dental facility designs shall comply with the amalgam separator requirements shown in [40 CFR part 441](#).

For dental clinics undergoing renovation or repairs involving dental wastewater discharge systems, evaluate appropriateness of incorporating amalgam separator(s) to meet the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 compliance deadline for existing dental clinics.

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