

New Amalgam Rules May Affect Your Practice

Beginning January 1, 2008, dentists who place or remove dental amalgam and other mercury-containing material are required to be certified in compliance with the Oregon Dental Association's Best Management Practices. The law also requires affected dentists to install amalgam separators. Dental practices that are certified in compliance by their local wastewater treatment agency meet the law's certification requirement and have until January 1, 2011 to install an amalgam separator. Uncertified dental practices must install an amalgam separator by January 1, 2008. Amalgam separators must be certified by the manufacturer to remove at least 95% of the amalgam that passes through the drain. The law also requires that all new dental facilities constructed after January 1 be equipped with amalgam separators. Amalgam separators installed before January, 2008, may be eligible for a tax credit equal to 35 percent of the purchase and installation cost. Information on the tax credit is available at www.deq.sate.or.us/msd/taxcredits/amalgam.htm.

If you have any questions regarding dental practice compliance issues, please contact our health law group attorneys at (541) 484-2277 in Eugene, (541) 673-5528 in Roseburg, (541) 923-8767 in Redmond, or (541) 757-1365 in Corvallis.

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