

## **4% Paraformaldehyde Collection and Disposal**

### **Introduction:**

Paraformaldehyde (PFA) is a chemical cross-linker and therefore a hazardous chemical that is regulated by the Case Western University Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety (DOES). This procedure is maintained in the lab to protect the safety of all employees in the laboratory and ensure laboratory compliance with DOES requirements. An EMPTY container of appropriate size and type must be used to collect the hazardous waste. Contact DOES if guidance is needed. The HAZARDOUS WASTE tags provided by DOES must be filled out and attached to the container in which the waste will be collected PRIOR to collecting any waste. The following information must be entered on the tag:

**PI:** Horst von Recum                      **Location:** Wickenden 218  
**Contact:** Horst von Recum            **Bottle #:** (only if more than one, not used most of the time)  
**Account:** RES                              **Phone #:** 368-4195

**Constituents:** (list percentages of contents comprising the fluid)

Paraformaldehyde	4%
Phosphate Buffered Saline 0.5M	96%

**Quantity:** 1 Gal

Date: (leave blank until DOES arrives to collect the bottle)

### **Materials:**

Hazardous Waste Collection Tag

1 Gal. Plastic Jug

Latex or Non-Latex Gloves, Glasses and Lab Coat per lab safety requirements

### **Procedure:**

[Put on gloves, glasses and lab coat]

1. Locate and pour the PFA waste into the container in the fume hood in the molecular room.
2. Replace cap and tighten firmly; do not over-tighten.
3. When container is filled to nearly the top, locate a new container and fill out a new hazardous waste tag.
4. Call Safety Services at 368-2907 to schedule a pickup.
5. Write the date on the hazardous waste tag in the presence of the DOES specialist.