Purchase and Disposal of Fluorescent Tubes

ADVICE FOR FACILITIES MANAGERS

Existing tubes
Spent fluorescent tubes are classed as hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005. Any building that has a store of used tubes should make arrangements for the disposal of these with an appropriate contractor. There are several contractors who are available to carry this out, Mercury Recycling and West Cheshire Cleaning being just two that have recently been used by some council premises. Movement of spent tubes between sites to a central collection point by employees is permitted (this has been confirmed by the environment Agency).

Under no circumstances should tubes be disposed of in the general waste.

New Tubes
Once any backlog of tubes has been cleared it is advisable to purchase new tubes from a company that will remove the old tubes on delivery of the new thus preventing any storage problems. CMR, who are available on the procurement system are one company who offer this service with no minimum delivery requirement.

Premises that still wish to collect a number of tubes before disposal should ensure that they are provided with appropriate, secure containers and that the tubes are stored in such a way that the glass is not broken.

Please note:
The maximum duration for the storage of tubes before disposal is three months.

15th April 2009
Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team