



## 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.

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team**