

Sector M - Storm Water Discharges Associated With Industrial Activity From Automobile Salvage Yards

1. Discharges Covered Under This Section

The requirements of this section apply to point source discharges of storm water associated with industrial activity from facilities engaged in dismantling or wrecking used motor vehicles for parts recycling or resale and for scrap (Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 5015):

SIC Code	Sector M: Automobile Salvage Yards	Sampling Required?	Table Number
5015	Motor Vehicle Parts, Used	Yes	M-1

When an industrial facility, described by the above coverage provisions of this section, has industrial activities being conducted onsite that meet the description(s) of industrial activities in another section(s), that industrial facility shall comply with any and all applicable monitoring and pollution prevention plan requirements of the other section(s) in addition to all applicable requirements in this section. The monitoring and pollution prevention plan terms and conditions of this multi-sector permit are additive for industrial activities being conducted at the same industrial facility (co-located industrial activities). The operator of the facility shall determine which other monitoring and pollution prevention plan section(s) of this permit (if any) are applicable to the facility.

2. Special Conditions

Prohibition of Non-storm Water Discharges. Except for those allowable non-storm water discharges included in Part 3.1.2 (Allowable Non-Storm Water Discharges) of this permit, there are no other non-storm water discharges authorized in this Sector.

3. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Requirements

3.1 Deadlines for Plan Preparation and Compliance. There are no additional deadlines for plan preparation and compliance, other than those stated in Part 4.1.

3.2 Contents of Plan. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

3.2.1 Pollution Prevention Team. Each plan shall identify a specific individual or individuals within the facility organization as members of a storm water Pollution Prevention Team that are responsible for developing the storm water pollution prevention plan and assisting the facility or plant manager in its implementation, maintenance, and revision. The plan shall clearly identify the responsibilities of each team member. The activities and responsibilities of the team shall address all aspects of the facility's storm water pollution prevention plan.

3.2.2 Description of Potential Pollutant Sources. Each storm water pollution prevention plan must describe industrial activities, significant materials, and physical features of the facility that may contribute to storm water runoff or, during periods of dry weather, result in dry weather flows. Plans must include the following elements:

Sector M

- 3.2.2.1 **Site Map**—The plan must contain a map of the site that shows structural features that control pollutants in storm water runoff and process wastewater discharges, surface water bodies (including wetlands), places where significant materials are exposed to rainfall and runoff, and locations of major spills and leaks that occurred in the 3 years prior to the date of the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under this permit. The map must also indicate the flow direction of storm water runoff. The location of each storm water outfall associated with an industrial activity, as well as an outline of the drainage area for each storm water outfall and an indication of the types of discharges in each drainage area must be indicated. The map must indicate the location of each monitoring point. The map must include an estimation (in acres) of the total area used for industrial activity including, but not limited to, dismantling, storage, and maintenance of used motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts. The map must also indicate the location of the following activities where such activities are exposed to precipitation: vehicle storage areas; dismantling areas; parts storage areas, including engine blocks, tires, hub caps, batteries, hoods, and mufflers; fueling stations; vehicle and equipment maintenance areas; cleaning areas (parts, vehicles, and/or equipment); loading and unloading areas; locations used for the treatment, storage, and disposal of wastes; and liquid storage tanks and drums for fuel and other fluids.
- 3.2.2.2 **Inventory of Potential Pollutant Sources**—Facility operators are required to carefully conduct an inspection of the site to identify significant materials exposed to precipitation that may contribute pollutants to storm water discharges. The inventory must address materials that within 3 years prior to the date of the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under this permit have been handled, stored, processed, treated, or disposed of in a manner to allow exposure to storm water. Findings of the inventory must be documented in detail in the pollution prevention plan. At a minimum, the plan must describe the method and location of onsite storage or disposal; practices used to minimize contact of materials with rainfall and runoff; existing structural and nonstructural controls that reduce pollutants in storm water runoff; existing structural controls that prohibit/control process wastewater discharges; and any treatment the runoff receives before it is discharged to surface waters or through a separate storm sewer system. The description must be updated whenever there is a significant change in the types or amounts of materials, or material management practices that may affect the exposure of materials to storm water.
- 3.2.2.3 **Significant Spills and Leaks**—The plan must include a list of any significant spills and leaks of toxic or hazardous pollutants that occurred in the 3 years prior to the date of the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under this permit. Significant spills include, but are not limited to, releases of oil or hazardous substances in excess of quantities that are reportable under Section 311 of CWA (see 40 CFR 110.10 and 40 CFR 117.21) or Section 102 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (see 40 CFR 302.4). Significant spills may also include releases of oil or hazardous substances that are not in excess of reporting requirements and releases of materials that are not classified as oil or a hazardous substance. This list shall be updated as appropriate during the term of the permit.
- 3.2.2.4 **Sampling Data**—Any existing data or data collected during the term of this permit describing the quality or quantity of storm water discharges from the facility must be summarized in the plan. The description should include a discussion of the methods used to collect and analyze

Tennessee Storm Water Multi-Sector
General Permit for Industrial Activities (TMSP)
Sector M

the data. Sample collection points should be identified in the plan and shown on the site map.

- 3.2.2.5 Summary of Potential Pollutant Sources—The description of potential pollution sources should clearly point to activities, materials, and physical features of the facility that have a reasonable potential to contribute significant amounts of pollutants to storm water discharges. Any such industrial activities, significant materials, or features must be addressed by the measures and controls subsequently described in the plan. In conducting the assessment, the facility operator must consider the potential for the following activities to contribute pollutants: vehicle storage areas; dismantling areas; parts storage areas, including engine blocks, tires, hub caps, batteries, and hoods; fueling stations; vehicle and equipment maintenance areas; cleaning areas (parts and vehicles and/or equipment); loading/unloading areas; locations used for the treatment, storage, and disposal of wastes; and liquid storage tanks and drums for fuel and other fluids.

The assessment must identify the pollutant parameter or parameters (i.e., copper, iron, lead, oil and grease, total suspended solids, etc.) associated with each pollutant source.

- 3.2.3 Measures and Controls. Following completion of the source identification and assessment phase, the permittee must evaluate, select, and describe the pollution prevention measures, best management practices (BMPs), and other controls that will be implemented at the facility. BMPs include processes, procedures, schedules of activities, prohibitions on practices, and other management practices that prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff.

The pollution prevention plan must discuss the reasons each selected control or practice is appropriate for the facility and how each will address the potential sources of storm water pollution. The plan also must include a schedule specifying the time or times during which each control or practice will be implemented. In addition, the plan should discuss ways in which the controls and practices relate to one another and, when taken as a whole, produce an integrated and consistent approach for preventing or controlling potential storm water contamination problems.

- 3.2.3.1 Good Housekeeping—Good housekeeping requires the maintenance of areas which may contribute pollutants to storm water discharges in a clean, orderly manner.
- 3.2.3.2 Preventive Maintenance—The preventive maintenance program shall schedule periodic inspections and ensure appropriate maintenance of storm water management devices and facility equipment and systems. This program will address conditions that could cause breakdowns or failures resulting in the discharge of pollutants to surface waters. The maintenance program shall include periodic removal of debris from discharge diversions, conveyance systems, and impoundments/ponds. These activities should be conducted in the spring, after snow melt, and during the fall season. Maintenance schedules for sedimentation/impoundments must be provided in the pollution prevention plan.
- 3.2.3.3 Spill and Leak Prevention and Response Procedures—Areas where potential spills which can contribute pollutants to storm water discharges can occur, and their accompanying drainage points shall be identified clearly in the storm water pollution prevention plan. The plan

Sector M

should consider specifying material handling procedures, storage requirements, and use of equipment such as diversion valves. Procedures for cleaning up spills shall be identified in the plan and made available to the appropriate personnel. The necessary equipment to implement a clean up should be available to personnel. After clean up from a spill, absorbents must be promptly placed in containers for proper disposal. All vehicles that are intended to be dismantled must be properly drained of all fluids upon arrival at the site, or as soon as feasible thereafter, or other equivalent means must be taken to prevent leaks or spills of such fluids.

- 3.2.3.4 Inspections—Upon arrival at the site, or as soon as feasible thereafter, vehicles must be inspected for leaks. Any equipment containing oily parts, hydraulic fluids, or any other types of fluids shall be inspected at least quarterly (four times per year) for signs of leaks. Any outdoor storage of fluids including, but not limited to, brake fluid, transmission fluid, radiator water, and antifreeze, must be inspected at least quarterly for leaks. All outdoor liquid storage containers (e.g., tanks, drums) must be inspected at least quarterly for leaks.

Qualified facility personnel are required to conduct quarterly visual inspections of BMPs. The inspections shall include: 1) an assessment of the integrity of storm water flow diversion and source minimization systems; 2) visual inspections of dismantling areas, vehicle and equipment maintenance areas, vehicle, equipment, and parts cleaning and storage areas, and other potential sources of pollution for evidence of actual or potential pollutant discharges of contaminated storm water.

Inspections shall be conducted in each of the following periods: January through March; April through June; July through September; and October through December.

Reports of the quarterly inspections (or more frequent if appropriate) shall be retained as part of the plan. Based on the results of each inspection the plan must be revised as appropriate within 2 weeks after each inspection. Changes in the measures and controls must be implemented on the site in a timely manner, and never more than 12 weeks after completion of the inspection.

- 3.2.3.5 Employee Training—Employee training programs shall inform personnel responsible for implementing activities identified in the storm water pollution prevention plan or otherwise responsible for storm water management at all levels of responsibility of the components and goals of the storm water pollution prevention plan. The pollution prevention plan shall include a schedule for training. Employee training must, at a minimum, address the following areas when applicable to a facility: proper handling (collection, storage, and disposal) of oil, used mineral spirits, anti-freeze, and solvents; spill prevention and response; fueling procedures; good housekeeping practices; and used battery management.

- 3.2.3.6 Recordkeeping and Internal Reporting Procedures—A description of incidents such as spills, or other discharges, along with other information describing the quality and quantity of storm water discharges shall be included in the plan required under this part. The permittee must describe procedures for developing and retaining records on the status and effectiveness of plan implementation. The plan must address monitoring, and BMP inspection and maintenance activities. Ineffective BMPs must be reported and the date of their corrective action noted.

Tennessee Storm Water Multi-Sector
General Permit for Industrial Activities (TMSP)
Sector M

3.2.3.7 Non-storm Water Discharges

- 3.2.3.7.1 The plan shall include a certification that the discharge has been tested or evaluated for the presence of non-storm water discharges. The certification shall include the identification of potential significant sources of non-storm water at the site, a description of the results of any test and/or evaluation for the presence of non-storm water discharges, the evaluation criteria or testing method used, the date of any testing and/or evaluation, and the onsite drainage points that were directly observed during the test. Certifications shall be signed in accordance with Part 7.7 of this permit. Such certification may not be feasible if the facility operating the storm water discharge associated with industrial activity does not have access to an outfall, manhole, or other point of access to the ultimate conduit which receives the discharge. In such cases, the source identification section of the storm water pollution prevention plan shall indicate why the certification required by this part was not feasible, along with the identification of potential significant sources of non-storm water at the site. A discharger that is unable to provide the certification required by this paragraph must notify the Division of Water Pollution Control in accordance with subsection 11.MM.3.2.3.7.3 Failure to Certify of this permit.
- 3.2.3.7.2 Sources of non-storm water that are combined with storm water discharges associated with industrial activity must be identified in the plan. The plan shall identify and ensure the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention measures for the non-storm water component(s) of the discharge. Any non-storm water discharges that are not authorized under this permit or another NPDES permit should be brought to the attention of the division's local Environmental Field Office (see list of EFOs on page 14).
- 3.2.3.7.3 Failure to Certify—Any facility that is unable to provide the certification required (testing for non-storm water discharges), must notify the Division of Water Pollution Control by not later than 180 days after submitting an NOI to be covered by this permit. If the failure to certify is caused by the inability to perform adequate tests or evaluations, such notification shall describe: the procedure of any test conducted for the presence of non-storm water discharges; the results of such test or other relevant observations; potential sources of non-storm water discharges to the storm sewer; and why adequate tests for such storm sewers were not feasible. Non-storm water discharges to waters of the State which are not authorized by an NPDES permit are unlawful, and must be terminated.
- 3.2.3.7.4 Sediment and Erosion Control—The plan shall identify areas which, due to topography, activities, or other factors, have a high potential for significant soil erosion, and identify structural, vegetative, and/or stabilization measures to be used to limit erosion. Permittees must consider measures to maximize stabilization of industrial areas using vegetative cover, gravel, impervious surfaces or other appropriate measures.
- 3.2.3.7.5 Management of Runoff—The plan shall contain a narrative consideration of the appropriateness of traditional storm water management practices (practices other than those which control the generation or source(s) of pollutants) used to divert, infiltrate, reuse, or otherwise manage storm water runoff in a manner that reduces pollutants in storm water discharges from the site. The plan shall provide measures that the permittee determines to be reasonable and appropriate and shall be implemented and maintained. The potential of

Tennessee Storm Water Multi-Sector
General Permit for Industrial Activities (TMSP)
Sector M

various sources at the facility to contribute pollutants to storm water discharges associated with industrial activity (see 11.M.3.2.2.5 (Description of Potential Pollutant Sources) of this permit) shall be considered when determining reasonable and appropriate measures. Appropriate measures may include: vegetative swales and practices, reuse of collected storm water (such as for a process or as an irrigation source), inlet controls (such as oil/water separators), snow management activities, infiltration devices, wet detention/retention devices, or other equivalent measures. In addition, the permittee must describe the storm water pollutant source area or activity (e.g., dismantling area, storage area, cleaning operations) to be controlled by each storm water management practice.

The plan must consider management practices, such as berms or drainage ditches on the property line that may be used to prevent runoff from neighboring properties. Berms must be considered for uncovered outdoor storage of oily parts, engine blocks, and above ground liquid storage. The installation of detention ponds must also be considered. The permittee shall consider the installation of a filtering device to receive runoff from industrial areas. The installation of oil/water separators must also be considered.

- 3.2.4 Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation. Qualified personnel shall conduct comprehensive site compliance evaluations at appropriate intervals specified in the plan, but in no case less than once a year. The storm water pollution prevention plan must describe the scope and content of comprehensive site evaluations that qualified personnel will conduct to 1) confirm the accuracy of the description of potential pollution sources contained in the plan, 2) determine the effectiveness of the plan, and 3) assess compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit. The individual or individuals who will conduct the evaluations must be identified in the plan and should be members of the pollution prevention team. Such evaluations shall provide:
- 3.2.4.1 Areas contributing to a storm water discharge associated with industrial activity shall be visually inspected for evidence of, or the potential for, pollutants entering the drainage system. Measures to reduce pollutant loadings shall be evaluated to determine whether they are adequate and properly implemented in accordance with the terms of the permit or whether additional control measures are needed. Structural storm water management measures, sediment and erosion control measures, and other structural pollution prevention measures identified in the plan shall be observed to ensure that they are operating correctly. A visual inspection of equipment needed to implement the plan, such as spill response equipment, shall be made.
- 3.2.4.2 Based on the results of the evaluation, the description of potential pollutant sources identified in the plan in accordance with subsection 11.M.3.2.2.5 (Description of Potential Pollutant Sources) of this permit and pollution prevention measures and controls identified in the plan in accordance with section 11.M.3.2.3 (Measures and Controls) of this permit shall be revised as appropriate within 2 weeks of such evaluation and shall provide for implementation of any changes to the plan in a timely manner, but in no case more than 12 weeks after the evaluation.
- 3.2.4.3 A report summarizing the scope of the evaluation, personnel making the evaluation, the date(s) of the evaluation, major observations relating to the implementation of the storm water pollution prevention plan, and actions taken in accordance with the permit shall be

Sector M

made and retained as part of the storm water pollution prevention plan for at least 3 years after the date of the evaluation. The report shall identify any incidents of noncompliance. Where a report does not identify any incidents of noncompliance, the report shall contain a certification that the facility is in compliance with the storm water pollution prevention plan and this permit. The report shall be signed in accordance with Part 7.7 (Signatory Requirements) of this permit.

3.2.4.4 Where compliance evaluation schedules overlap with inspections required under subsection 11.M.3.2.3.4, the compliance evaluation may be conducted in place of one such inspection.

4. Numeric Effluent Limitations

There are no additional numeric effluent limitations beyond those described in Part 5.2 of this permit.

5. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

One (1) signed copy of the Discharge Monitoring Report, DMR, (see Addendum D) for numeric effluent limits results or Annual Storm Water Monitoring Report (see Addendum E) for the benchmark results is required to be submitted to the division.

5.1 Analytical Monitoring Requirements

During the term of this permit, permittees covered under this sector must monitor their storm water discharges associated with industrial activity at least once per calendar year (annually), except as provided in paragraphs 5.1.3 (Sampling Waiver), 5.1.4 (Representative Discharge), and 5.1.5 (Alternative Certification). For SIC-specific breakdown of monitoring requirements and applicable Monitoring Requirements (listed below), see Table in Part 1 of this industrial sector (1. Discharges Covered Under This Section). Facilities must report in accordance with 5.2 (Reporting). In addition to the parameters listed in Table M-1 below, the permittee shall maintain a record of the date and duration (in hours) of the storm event(s) sampled; rainfall measurements or estimates (in inches) of the storm event that generated the sampled runoff; the duration between the storm event sampled and the end of the previous measurable (greater than 0.1 inch rainfall) storm event; and an estimate of the total volume (in gallons) of the discharge sampled.

Table M-1. Benchmark Monitoring Requirements for Automobile Salvage Yards

Pollutants of Concern	Benchmark [mg/L]	Sector Median Value * [mg/L]
Total Suspended Solids	150	19
Total Recoverable Aluminum	0.75	0.67
Total Recoverable Iron	5	0.73
Total Recoverable Lead	0.156	0.042

* Sector Median Value is a pollutant concentration calculated from all sampling results provided from facilities classified in this sector during the previous permit term. By definition, a median is a statistical

Sector M

term identifying a number that divides numerically ordered data into two equal halves. In easier terms, the median is the middle piece of data when those data are placed in numerical order or the average of the middle two if there is an even number of items. Therefore, median concentration(s) listed above represent a concentration value typical for and achieved by industries in this sector.

5.1.1 Monitoring Periods. Automobile salvage yards shall monitor samples collected during any period of a calendar year, as long as the samples are representative of the quantity and quality of the storm water runoff being discharged from the facility.

5.1.2 Sample Type. A minimum of one grab sample shall be taken. All such samples shall be collected from the discharge resulting from a storm event that is greater than 0.1 inches in magnitude and that occurs at least 72 hours from the previously measurable (greater than 0.1 inch rainfall) storm event. The required 72-hour storm event interval is waived where the preceding measurable storm event did not result in a measurable discharge from the facility. The required 72-hour storm event interval may also be waived where the permittee documents that less than a 72-hour interval is representative for local storm events during the season when sampling is being conducted. The grab sample shall be taken during the first 30 minutes of the discharge. If the collection of a grab sample during the first 30 minutes is impracticable, a grab sample can be taken during the first hour of the discharge, and the discharger shall submit with the monitoring report a description of why a grab sample during the first 30 minutes was impracticable. If storm water discharges associated with industrial activity commingle with process or nonprocess water, then where practicable permittees must attempt to sample the storm water discharge before it mixes with the non-storm water discharge.

In addition, the permittee shall evaluate the results obtained from sampling and monitoring following the required annual sampling events to determine whether the facility is below, meets, or exceeds the monitoring benchmarks as shown in the table above. If the results of annual storm water runoff monitoring demonstrate that the facility has exceeded the benchmark(s), the permittee must inform the division's local Environmental Field Office in writing within 30 days from the time storm water monitoring results were received, describing the likely cause of the exceedance(s). Furthermore, within 60 days from the time storm water monitoring results were received, the facility must review its storm water pollution prevention plan, make any modifications or additions to the plan which would assist in reducing effluent concentrations to less than the monitoring benchmarks for that facility, and submit to the division's local Environmental Field Office a brief summary of the proposed SWPPP modifications (including a timetable for implementation).

5.1.3 Sampling Waiver

5.1.3.1 Adverse Conditions—When a discharger is unable to collect samples within a specified sampling period due to adverse climatic conditions, the discharger shall collect a substitute sample from a separate qualifying event in the next period and submit the data along with data for the routine sample in that period. Adverse weather conditions that may prohibit the collection of samples include weather conditions that create dangerous conditions for personnel (such as local flooding, high winds, hurricane, tornadoes, electrical storms, etc.) or otherwise make the collection of a sample impracticable (e.g., drought, extended frozen conditions, etc.).

Sector M

- 5.1.3.2 Low Concentration Waiver—When the average concentration for a pollutant calculated from monitoring data collected from first 4 calendar years of monitoring is less than the corresponding reporting value for that pollutant (Monitoring Benchmark); a facility may waive monitoring and reporting requirements in the last annual monitoring period. The facility must submit to the Division of Water Pollution Control, in lieu of the monitoring data, a certification that there has not been a significant change in industrial activity or the pollution prevention measures in the area of the facility which drains to the outfall for which sampling was waived.
- 5.1.3.3 When a discharger is unable to conduct annual chemical storm water sampling at an inactive and unstaffed site, the operator of the facility may exercise a waiver of the monitoring requirements as long as the facility remains inactive and unstaffed. The facility must submit to the Division of Water Pollution Control, in lieu of monitoring data, a certification statement on the TMSP Storm Water Monitoring Report stating that the site is inactive and unstaffed so that collecting a sample during a qualifying event is not possible.
- 5.1.4 Representative Discharge. When a facility has two or more outfalls that, based on a consideration of industrial activity, significant materials, and management practices and activities within the area drained by the outfall, the permittee reasonably believes discharge substantially identical effluents, the permittee may test the effluent of one of such outfalls and report that the quantitative data also applies to the substantially identical outfall(s) provided that the permittee includes in the storm water pollution prevention plan a description of the location of the outfalls and explains in detail why the outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical effluents. In addition, for each outfall that the permittee believes is representative, an estimate of the size of the drainage area (in square feet) and an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage area [e.g., low (under 40 percent), medium (40 to 65 percent), or high (above 65 percent)] shall be provided in the plan. The permittee shall include the description of the location of the outfalls, explanation of why outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical effluents, and estimate of the size of the drainage area and runoff coefficient with the TMSP Storm Water Monitoring Report.
- 5.1.5 Alternative Certification. A discharger is not subject to the monitoring requirements of this section provided the discharger makes a certification for a given outfall or on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis in lieu of monitoring reports required under b below, under penalty of law, signed in accordance with Part 7.7 (Signatory Requirements), that material handling equipment or activities, raw materials, intermediate products, final products, waste materials, by-products, industrial machinery or operations, or significant materials from past industrial activity, that are located in areas of the facility within the drainage area of the outfall are not presently exposed to storm water and are not expected to be exposed to storm water for the certification period. Such certification must be retained in the storm water pollution prevention plan, and submitted to the Division of Water Pollution Control in accordance with Part 6.2. of this permit. In the case of certifying that a pollutant is not present, the permittee must submit the certification along with the monitoring reports required under paragraph (b) below. If the permittee cannot certify for an entire period, they must submit the date exposure was eliminated and conduct any monitoring required up until that date. This certification option is not applicable to compliance monitoring requirements associated with effluent limitations.

Sector M

5.2 Reporting Permittees with analytical monitoring requirements shall submit monitoring results for each outfall associated with industrial activity [or a certification in accordance with the above Sections obtained during the annual reporting period on TMSP Storm Water Monitoring Report Form(s) postmarked no later than the March 31st of the following calendar year. For each outfall, one signed TMSP Storm Water Monitoring Report form must be submitted to the Division of Water Pollution Control. Signed copies of TMSP Storm Water Monitoring Reports, or said certifications, shall be submitted to the division at the appropriate EFO for the county where the facility is located. A list of EFOs and their addresses are available in subpart 3.3 above.

5.3 Quarterly Visual Examination of Storm Water Quality. All automobile salvage yard facilities shall perform and document a visual examination of a storm water discharge associated with industrial activity from each outfall, except discharges exempted below. The examination(s) must be made at least once in each of the following 3-month periods: January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December. The examination shall be made during daylight hours unless there is insufficient rainfall or snow melt to produce a runoff event.

5.3.1 Examinations shall be made of samples collected within the first 30 minutes (or as soon thereafter as practical, but not to exceed 1 hour) of when the runoff or snowmelt begins discharging. The examinations shall document observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, and other obvious indicators of storm water pollution. The examination must be conducted in a well lit area. No analytical tests are required to be performed on the samples. All such samples shall be collected from the discharge resulting from a storm event that is greater than 0.1 inches in magnitude and that occurs at least 72 hours from the previously measurable (greater than 0.1 inch rainfall) storm event. Where practicable, the same individual should carry out the collection and examination of discharges for the entire permit term.

5.3.2 Visual examination reports must be maintained onsite in the pollution prevention plan or with other compliance records or with other compliance records. The report shall include the examination date and time, examination personnel, the nature of the discharge (i.e., runoff or snow melt), visual quality of the storm water discharge (including observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, and other obvious indicators of storm water pollution), and probable sources of any observed storm water contamination.

5.3.3 When a facility has two or more outfalls that, based on a consideration of industrial activity, significant materials, and management practices and activities within the area drained by the outfall, the permittee reasonably believes discharge substantially identical effluents, the permittee may collect a sample of effluent of one of such outfalls and report that the examination data also applies to the substantially identical outfall(s) provided that the permittee includes in the storm water pollution prevention plan a description of the location of the outfalls and explains in detail why the outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical effluents. In addition, for each outfall that the permittee believes is representative, an estimate of the size of the drainage area (in square feet) and an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage area [e.g., low (under 40 percent), medium (40 to 65 percent), or high (above 65 percent)] shall be provided in the plan.

Sector M

5.3.4 When a discharger is unable to collect samples over the course of the visual examination period as a result of adverse climatic conditions, the discharger must document the reason for not performing the visual examination and retain this documentation onsite with the records of the visual examinations. Adverse weather conditions which may prohibit the collection of samples include weather conditions that create dangerous conditions for personnel (such as local flooding, high winds, hurricane, tornadoes, electrical storms, etc.) or otherwise make the collection of a sample impracticable (e.g., drought, extended frozen conditions, etc.).

5.3.5 When a discharger is unable to conduct visual storm water examinations at an inactive and unstaffed site, the operator of the facility may exercise a waiver of the monitoring requirement as long as the facility remains inactive and unstaffed. The facility must maintain a certification with the pollution prevention plan stating that the site is inactive and unstaffed so that performing visual examinations during a qualifying event is not feasible.

5.4 Retention of Records

The permittee shall retain records of all inspections and monitoring information, including certification reports, noncompliance reports, calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports, and supporting data, requested by the permitting authority for at least 3 years after the date of the inspection or monitoring event.