



PCB-stock storage



During PCB management equipment contaminated with PCB will be identified, and collected in storage facilities:

- Interim or short time storage not more than one week.
- Long time storage where the equipment is waiting until there be sent for treatment or disposal.



Because PCB wastes are toxic the storage facilities should fulfill specific safety requirements to protect human health and the environment.

In both cases, the PCB storage is temporary since the goal is to eliminate PCBs.

Long-time storage is usually not more than one year. Here all PCB stocks are collected until there are enough PCB stocks to justify the elimination economically.



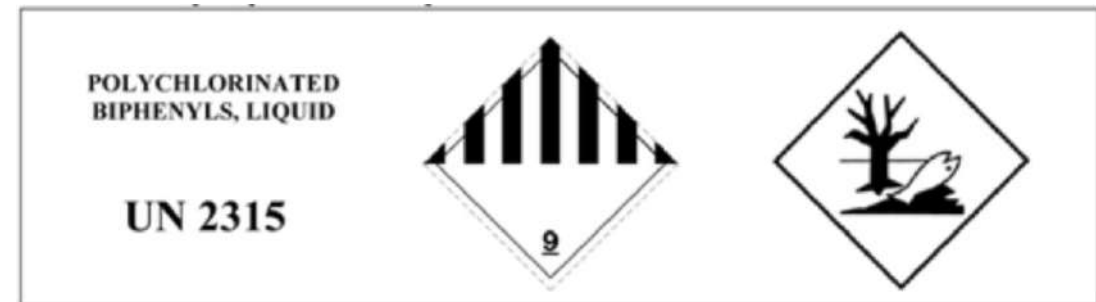
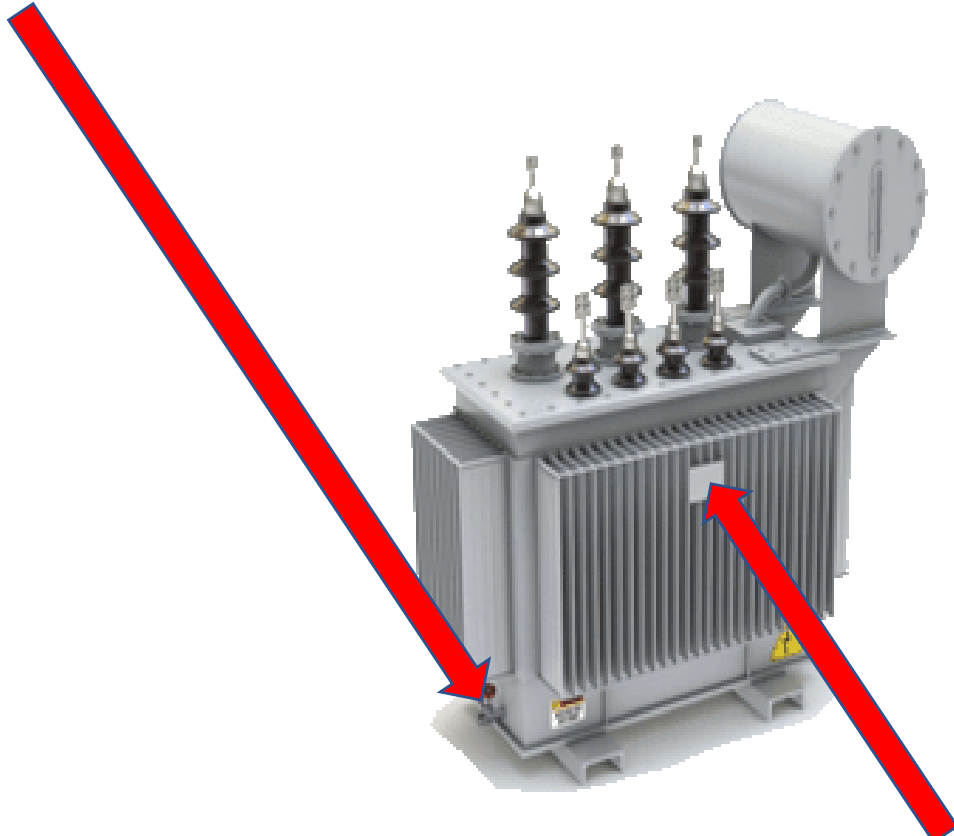
2. Packaging of the PCB-stocks

Before PCB contaminated equipment is stored it should be hermetic closed to avoid any leakages from the equipment.



2. Packaging of the PCB-stocks

Valves, joints, and welds should be checked.



Ensure that the equipment has correct labeling that includes nameplates and all technical information needed.

2. Packaging of the PCB-stocks

- PCB liquids should be collected in UN certified drums.
- All the equipment must be placed in suitable bins or trays that contain the probable loss of oil.



2. Packaging of the PCB-stocks

Solid and liquid waste mixed:

- Collect it in shock- and corrosion-resistant containers
- seal with well-fitting, double-walled drain caps or plugs and be properly labeled.



For equipment with relatively small amounts of PCB that show damages or leaks on the outside of the equipment:

- Store in tightly wrapped in polyethylene bags
- Place inside steel containers with removable lids that can be hermetically sealed
- Those are then ready for final disposal

3. Interim storage

The interim storage is usually located in electrical facilities in which packaged PCB stocks are stored awaiting transport to long-time storage, treatment, or elimination facilities.

These stocks are stored no longer than one week. Interim storage must comply with the minimum safety requirement for PCB storage to protect the environment and human health.

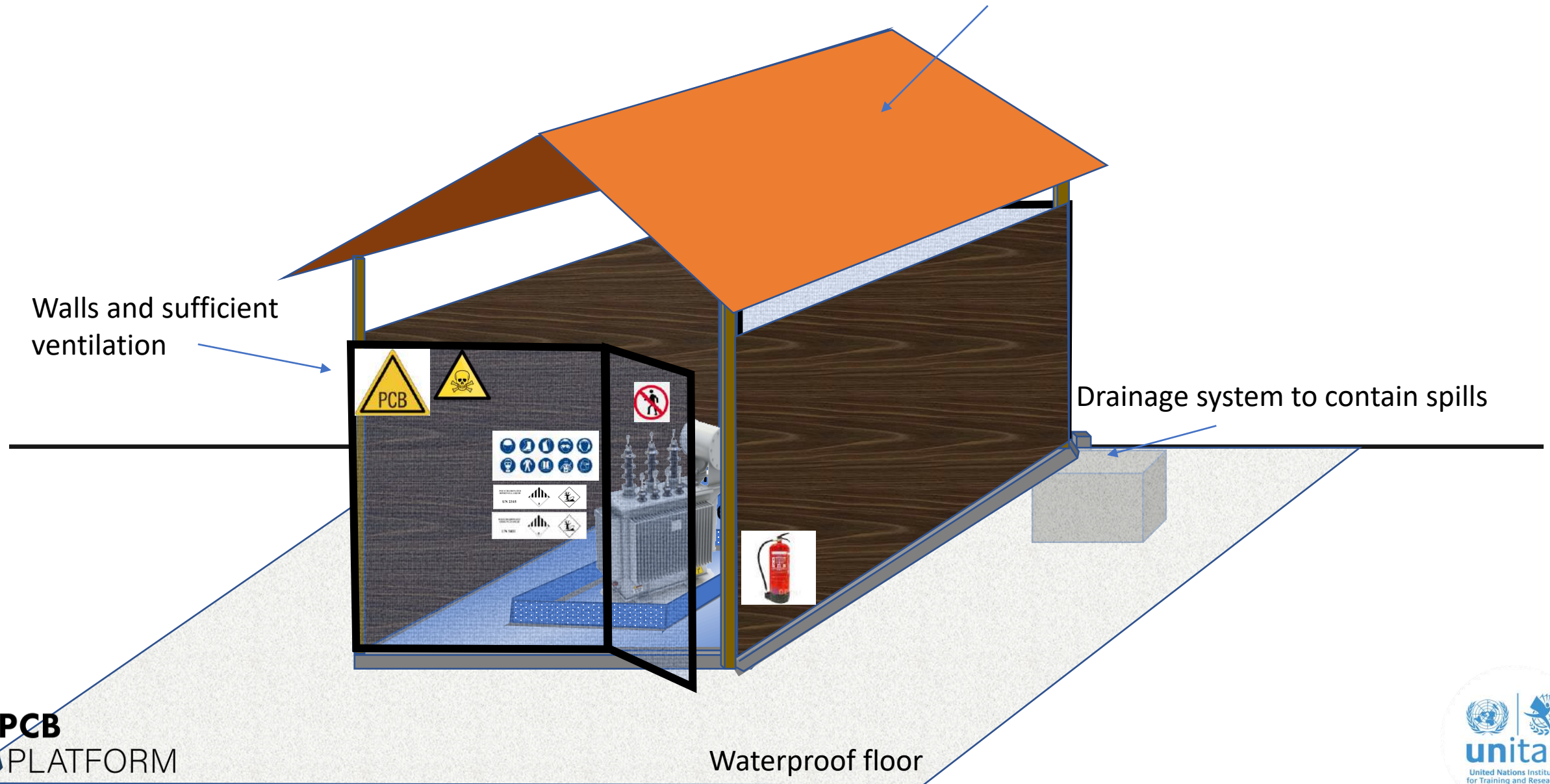


4. Interim storage

- To be cover against the weather.
- To have a cover the floor to protect the soil in case of the oil leak.
- To have good ventilation (natural or forced).
- To have enough barriers to avoid the entrance of non-authorized personnel at this place.
- PCB stocks must be inside metal trays to avoid any leakage that could contaminate the soil.
- Have a fire protection system and kit in case of oil spills.
- Have safety notices and signs in visible areas with information regarding these hazardous substances, including their material safety data sheets (have an emergency telephone directory).



3. Long time PCB storage



3. Long time PCB storage

The following requirements should a PCB storage facility fulfill to properly store PCB wastes and stocks:

- Storage should be located at least one hundred meters away from sensitive areas such as surface or ground water areas, schools, hospitals, shopping centers and marketplaces.
- It should have a protective roof and have an impermeable floor that is resistant to loading and abrasion. For example, steel or geomembrane panels are a good base for the flooring.
- The floor should also have a slope and drainage system as runoff protection in case of spills and leaks.



3. Long time PCB storage

- Enclosed spaces should have an air ventilation system
- Fire protection system should be in place as well as visible warning and safety signs with information related to the hazardous substances. Equipment should be labeled with safety data sheets.
- Fuel or any other flammable substances should not be stored within a 10 m radius of the storage facility.



3. Long time PCB storage



- Restricted access for authorized personnel only. Personnel entering the warehouse should wear personal protective equipment and have an emergency telephone available.
- The storage facility should have additional rooms and areas. For example, a changing room for where personnel put on personal protection equipment, bathrooms as well as a decontamination area with emergency showers and eye showers in case a person got exposed to PCB.
- A Contingency Plan in case of fires and spills should be in place as well in which all authorized personnel is trained in.





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In the past multiple cases of improper storage of PCB equipment and wastes have been documented

Causes:

- lack of knowledge,
- resources or commitment by the authorities

Consequences could be:

- contaminated soils and groundwater
- costs for assessment of contamination, remediation and human health costs



Therefore...

Safe storage of PCB containing equipment would ensure protection of the environment and human health.





Thank you for your attention !

<https://www.pcb.unitar.org/>

