

## MERCURY RELAYS METHOD OF DISPOSAL

### 1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers the recommended procedure for the disposal of mercury relays in central offices.

1.02 This section applies to all mercury relays for which there is no credit allowance and are being junked due to their being defective or not meeting requirements.

### 2. DISPOSAL

2.01 Protective safety glasses should be worn when handling these relays, and caution notes associated with these relays in the Bell System Practices must be observed.

2.02 Mercury relays should be tested after being removed from the circuit to verify that they are defective.

2.03 All mercury relays contain a glass envelope partially filled with mercury and pressurized with hydrogen gas at 250 psi. Because of the hazards of mercury contamination and the danger of glass under pressure, mercury relays should never be disposed of through a common rubbish removal service.

2.04 For safely disposing of defective mercury relays, mark the relays "Defective Mercury Relays" and ship to the Western Electric Service Center in your territory for shipment to Nassau Smelting and Refining Company. Nassau has the capability for safe handling of these devices and can also economically recover the mercury, copper, and other metals in the relays.

2.05 Damaged 8-pin and 11-pin base mercury relays should receive special handling. When the alignment pin has been broken off, the relays should be placed in a plastic bag to retain the mercury in the event that the glass envelope is broken.

2.06 Cathode-ray, cold cathode, electron tubes, and fluorescent tubes should be disposed of in accordance with the instructions listed as follows:

| SECTION           | TUBE         |
|-------------------|--------------|
| BSP 010-110-002   | Cathode Ray  |
| BSP 010-110-003   | Fluorescent  |
| BSP 024-700-801   | Cold Cathode |
| BSP 024-709-801   | Cold Cathode |
| BSP 024-722-910PT | Electron     |