

Safety Services - Technical Briefing Note

Subject : Disposal of Infectious Biological (Clinical) Waste

Issued : October 2008

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References:

1. Environment and sustainability: Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste;
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicationsandStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063274
2. Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 and the List of Waste Regulations 2005
http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1019330/1217981/1384307/?version=1&lang=_e
3. Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH), (fifth edition). Approved Code of Practice and guidance. HSE 2005. ISBN 0 7176 2981 3

Introduction

The Department of Health has issued guidance on the safe management of healthcare waste which covers waste generated from clinical environments but also includes waste generated in research laboratories of a similar nature (and historically referred to as clinical waste). This replaces the Health Services Advisory Committee's (1999) guidance document 'Safe disposal of clinical waste'.

What is now required?

The new legislation requires appropriate segregation of waste into a number of waste streams, the use of the appropriate European Waste Catalogue (EWC) codes and having an auditable system.

How will this be achieved?

The University's biological waste collection contractor has assisted us in generating a simplified scheme (see below) applicable for hazardous waste from biological research laboratories that meets the need for a user friendly system but is also consistent with the waste management requirements. It is already the University's common practice that these waste should be rendered unrecognizable and therefore biological waste should be treated on site (e.g. by autoclaving) to ensure that there are no health and safety concerns during transport. Laboratories should continue this practice, but note that as a precaution and practical expedient, treated and untreated waste should be classed as EWC 18 01 03 and placed in yellow bags/bins where segregation is not practical. Both waste streams are at present sent for incineration. The proposed arrangements should mean little change for most areas.

Please note that separate policy and arrangements are in place for the disposal of human

tissue to comply with the requirements of the Human Tissue Act and that different EWC codes and arrangement exist for disposal of animal waste.

How will the scheme be implemented?





The University's appointed waste contractor operates a unique waste tracking system, Biotrack, which facilitates a visible audit of waste movements from production to final destruction.

The system works by identifying each waste unit (820L bins) with a tag containing a unique bar code. It is the responsibility of the waste producer (ie each laboratory supervisor/superintendent) to tag each unit. Clean units are delivered to the producer. On collection of full (or nearly full) units, the driver collects data on the bin contents and location from reading the bin code. The data is recorded electronically and the waste transported to the incineration plant where it is destroyed. The units are fully cleaned and sanitized, and delivered back to producers.

The waste contractor will remove smaller waste units under existing arrangements.

Who do I contact for more advice on disposal of hazardous waste?

Should individual Schools require a premise code or further advice on disposal of hazardous waste, they should contact the Waste Co-ordinator, Simon Atkinson on x65963. Schools requiring the "red tags" should contact the waste contractor directly cwestwood@srcl.com20 and inform Phil Lord (philip.lord@manchester.ac.uk).

Svc Code Suffix / Dept Catg Code	HY	LI	LX
Label "Stripe" Colour	Purple	Yellow	Red
Waste Type Description as it appears on the Labels	HAZ HEALTHCARE MEDICINES FOR INCINERATION (18 01 08)	INFECTIOUS LAB WASTE INCINERATE (18 01 03)	NON-INFECTIOUS LAB WASTE INCINERATE (18 01 04)
Label Sign Graphic /Signage No	SEEK ADVICE FOR CLASSIFICATION MARKING AND LABELING	 6.2	 None
UN Number Displayed	None	UN3291	None
Additional Graphic(s) on Label			
HWCN Required if present?	YES	YES	No
List of Wastes / Applicable EWC Codes	18 01 08	18 01 03	18 01 04
Waste Type Description as it appears on the Consignment Note	Waste contaminated with cytotoxic & cytostatic medicines - incinerate	Infectious waste from healthcare research & testing labs - incinerate	Non-infectious waste from healthcare research & testing labs - incinerate
Hazard Codes	H6 / H7 / H9 / H10 / H11	H9	N/A
Minimum Required Treatment	High Temperature Incineration (so as to chemically inactivate)	Incineration (so as to achieve complete biological inactivation)	Incineration (so as to render unrecognisable)
Prohibited Treatment	Alternative Treatment	Alternative Treatment	Alternative Treatment
Examples and Comments	Waste from cytotoxic medicines used in clinical settings	Untreated lab waste (eg gloves) Autoclaved lab waste Contaminated plastic ware Disinfectant treated plastic ware Ethidium bromide stained gels (small % overall volume/mass)	Lab waste which has been autoclaved in a fully validated autoclaved. Use Biotrack labelling system on 820L Eurobins waste units only