



# Biomedical Waste Guidelines



## **Biomedical Wastes Are:**

- Human or animal specimen cultures from medical/pathology labs.
- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories.
- Wastes from the production or testing of bacteria, viruses, spores and vaccines, certain discarded animal vaccines, and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate and mix cultures.
- Human or animal specimens, tissues, parts, fluids, or carcasses that are suspected of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be contagious to humans.
- Waste which contains recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing blood that is fluid, or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly communicable to humans.
- Discarded materials contaminated with excretion, exudate or secretions from humans or animals that are contaminated with highly communicable diseases or diseases of animals that are highly communicable to humans.
- Waste pharmaceuticals not regulated by EPA as RCRA hazardous wastes or controlled substances.

Wastes that are mentioned above or sharps waste AND generated or produced from:

- Diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals.
- Research pertaining to the above activities.

- The production or testing of biologicals (medicinal preparations made from living organisms and their products, including but not limited to, serums, vaccines, antigens and antitoxins).
- The accumulation of properly contained home-generated sharps waste that is brought by a patient, etc.
- Urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears, or vomitus that contains fluid blood.

### **Biomedical Waste Labeling:**

- All biomedical waste containers including red bags, bottles, sharps containers and secondary containers must be labeled with the words “BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE” or with the international symbol and the word “BIOHAZARD”.

### **Biomedical Waste Storage:**

- All biomedical waste must be contained separately from other waste at the point of generation.
- All solid biomedical waste must be placed in red bags, securely tied and placed in secondary containment.
- Secondary containers must be rigid, leak resistant, have tight fitting covers, be clean, and in good repair.
- All biomedical sharps waste must be placed in an approved biohazardous sharps container that is rigid puncture-resistant and which, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be opened without great difficulty.
- All solid biomedical waste, except for biomedical sharps waste, must be transferred to EH&S within 7 calendar days of being generated.
- Biomedical sharps waste must be transferred to EH&S within 7 calendar days of being approximately 2/3 full.

### **Liquid Biomedical Waste Disposal:**

1. Mix 1 part household bleach to 9 parts liquid biomedical waste.
2. Wait 30 minutes.
3. Pour down sanitary sewer drain.

### **Sharps Biomedical Waste Disposal**

- All biomedical sharps must be disposed in biohazardous sharps containers.
- These containers should not be emptied