

BIO-HAZARD

WASTE

(ONE HOUR TRAINING)

Lifetech Instructional Services
Palm Harbor, Fl. 34683
727-433-3341

Biomedical waste generator – A facility or person that produces biomedical waste

Contaminated – Soiled by any biomedical waste.

Decontamination – The process of removing pathogenic microorganisms from objects or surfaces, thereby rendering them safe for handling.

Disinfection – A process which results in a minimum of infectious organisms that can cause disease in humans (pathogens).

Facility – All contiguous land, structures, and other appurtenances which are owned, operated, and licensed as a single entity which may consist of several generating, treatment, or storage units.

Hazardous waste – Those materials defined in Chapter 62-730, F.A.C.

Health Care Provider – Any person who provides medical care or personal services to another individual.

Leak resistant – Prevents liquid from escaping to the environment in the upright position.

Outer container – Any rigid type container used to enclose packages of biomedical waste.

Packages – Any material that completely envelops biomedical waste. This includes red bags, sharps containers and outer containers.

Puncture resistant – Able to withstand punctures from contained sharps during normal usage and handling.

Restricted – The use of any measure, such as a lock, sign, or location, to prevent unauthorized entry.

Saturated – Soaked to capacity.

Sealed – Free from openings that allow the passage of liquids.

Sharps – Objects capable of puncturing, lacerating, or otherwise penetrating the skin.

Sharps container – A rigid, leak and puncture resistant container, designed primarily for the containment of sharps, clearly labeled with the phrase and international biological hazard symbol, manufactured with dyes meeting the requirements for incidental metals as described in Section 64E-16.004(2)(b)1.b., F.A.C.

Storage – The holding of packaged biomedical waste for a period longer than three days at a facility or in a transport vehicle.

Transfer – The movement of biomedical waste within a facility.

Transport – The movement of biomedical waste away from a facility.

Facility Policies and Procedures

All staff that could potentially come into contact with biohazardous waste at any facility that is a biohazard generator should be familiar with that facility's policy and procedures.

The State Regulations in 64E-16 F.A.C., state, "Any other solid waste or liquid, which is neither hazardous nor radioactive in character, combined with untreated biomedical waste, shall be managed as untreated biomedical waste". Therefore, any material that is introduced to a biohazard container (i.e. paper towels used to dry hands) is considered biohazard material if it is thrown into a biohazard container. Any material that is introduced into a sharps container (i.e. a pill that was found on the floor) will also be considered biohazard material.

All surfaces contaminated with spilled or leaked biomedical waste shall be decontaminated as part of the cleaning process. The material from a used blood spill kits is, therefore, biohazard material and must be treated as such (red bagged and placed into a biohazard container).

Each biomedical waste facility shall implement a written operating plan to manage biomedical waste, in accordance with the Florida Administrative Code (64E-16). This plan shall be available for review by the Florida Department of Health and facility personnel.

The plan shall include the following:

- a description of training for personnel;
- procedures for segregating, labeling, packaging, transporting, storing, and treating biomedical waste
- procedures for decontaminating biomedical waste spills
- a contingency plan for emergencies

Plans shall be updated when regulations, facility policies, or procedures change.

Each facility or their designee shall train new personnel who handle biomedical waste as part of their work responsibilities. This training shall be provided prior to commencement of duties related to biomedical waste handling. Refresher training shall be completed annually by all personnel who handle biomedical waste. Training shall detail compliance with the facility's operating plan and Chapter 64E-16, F.A.C., and shall be maintained as a part of the operating plan.

All biomedical waste management records shall be maintained for 3 years and shall be available for review by the department.

Storage and Containment

Storage of biomedical waste at the generating facility shall not exceed 30 days. The 30 day period shall commence when the first non-sharps item of biomedical waste is placed into a red bag or sharps container, or when a sharps container containing only sharps is sealed. Indoor storage areas shall have restricted access and be designated in the written operating plan. They shall be located away from pedestrian traffic, be vermin and insect free, and shall be maintained in a sanitary condition. They shall be constructed of smooth, easily cleanable materials that are impervious to liquids.

Containment

All packages containing biomedical waste shall be visibly identifiable with the international biological hazard symbol and one of the following phrases: "BIOMEDICAL WASTE", "BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE", "BIOHAZARD", "INFECTIOUS WASTE", or "INFECTIOUS

SUBSTANCE". The symbol shall be red, orange, or black and the background color shall contrast with that of the symbol.

Sharps containers

Sharps shall be discarded at the point of origin into single use or reusable sharps containers. Needles and scalpel blades shall not be placed directly into double-walled corrugated containers.

Sharps containers must be sealed when full. A sharps container is considered full when materials placed into it reach the designated fill line, or, if a fill line is not indicated, when additional materials cannot be placed into the container without cramming or when no additional materials are to be placed in the container. Cramming happens when a sharps can not longer be placed in a sharps container without "dropping" it. Take care that the staff member does not have to put their fingers into the sharps container. Also, the staff must not re-cap needles prior to placing or dropping the syringe into the sharps container.

Permanently mounted sharps container holders shall bear the phrase and the international biological hazard symbol described in paragraph 64E-16.004(2)(a), F.A.C., if this information on the sharps container is concealed by the sharps container holder.

The international biological hazard symbol shall be at least one inch in diameter on sharps containers. All outer containers shall be rigid, leak-resistant and puncture-resistant.

The international biological hazard symbol shall be at least six inches in diameter on outer containers 19'' × 14'' or larger, and at least one inch in diameter on outer containers less than 19'' × 14''.

Labeling

Biomedical waste bags and sharps containers shall be labeled with the generator's name and address unless treatment occurs at the generating facility.

If a bag or sharps container is placed into a larger bag prior to transport, the label for the exterior bag shall comply with paragraph 64E-16.005(1), F.A.C. Inner bags and inner sharps containers are exempt from the labeling requirements of paragraph 64E-16.005(1), F.A.C. Outer containers shall be labeled with the transporter's name, address, registration number, and 24-hour telephone number prior to transport.

The transporter may provide labels for bags or sharps containers that are generator-specific, such as bar codes or specific container numbers.

Generator Requirements

A biomedical waste generator shall not negotiate for the transport of biomedical waste with a person who is not registered with the department as a biomedical waste transporter.

Biomedical Waste Transport

No registered transporter may knowingly accept biomedical waste for transport unless it has been properly segregated, packaged, and labeled. Each registered transporter shall provide the generator with a receipt of pick-up.

Inspections

Department personnel shall inspect registered transport vehicles, permitted generators, storage, and treatment facilities at least once a year. Re-inspections may be conducted when a facility is found to be in non-compliance with this chapter. Results of each inspection shall be recorded on a form provided by the department.

Conclusion

Staff must remember that these requirements, along with the facility policies and procedures are for their safety and the safety of the general public and, therefore, should not be viewed as an inconvenience for anyone, but as safety for everyone.

Biohazard Post-Test

Name _____ Date _____

(Choose the Best Answer)

1. True _____ False _____ Sharps containers can be held at the facility indefinitely as long as they are sealed.
2. True _____ False _____ The transporter must give the facility a receipt of any pick up of any biohazardous material.
3. True _____ False _____ Staff must be trained every other year on biohazardous waste.
4. True _____ False _____ Sharps containers must be sealed when full.
5. True _____ False _____ Each biomedical waste facility shall implement a written operating plan.
6. True _____ False _____ Cramming happens when a sharps can not longer be placed in a sharps container without "dropping" it.
7. True _____ False _____ Department personnel shall inspect registered transport vehicles, permitted generators, storage, and treatment facilities at least once every three years.
8. True _____ False _____ Biomedical waste bags and sharps containers shall be labeled with the generator's name and address unless treatment occurs at the generating facility.
9. True _____ False _____ Each biomedical waste facility shall implement a written operating plan to manage biomedical waste, in accordance with the Florida Administrative Code (64E-16). This plan shall be available for review by the Florida Department of Health and facility personnel.
10. True _____ False _____ Storage of biomedical waste at the generating facility shall not exceed 60 days.

FILL OUT YOUR INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND YOUR COMPLETED ANSWER SHEET TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

INCLUDE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$ 10.00 (PER TEST)

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
PRESCHOOL NAME: _____

MAIL TO:

Life Tech Instructional
1423 Wisconsin Ave.
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
727-433-3341