CHAPTER 33-20-12
REGULATED INFECTIOUS WASTE

Section
33-20-12-01 Definitions
33-20-12-02 Management Standards

33-20-12-01. Definitions.

1. As used in this article, "regulated infectious waste" means an infectious waste which is listed in subdivisions a through g of this subsection. Ash from incineration and residues from disinfection processes are not infectious waste once the incineration or the disinfection has been completed.

   a. Cultures and stocks. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.

   b. Pathological waste. Human pathological waste, including tissues, organs, and body parts and body fluids that are removed during surgery or autopsy, or other medical procedures, and specimens of body fluids and their containers.

   c. Human blood and blood products. Liquid waste human blood; products of blood; items saturated or dripping with human blood; or items that were saturated or dripping with human blood that are now caked with dried human blood (including serum, plasma, and other blood components, and their containers).

   d. Sharps. Sharps that have been used in animal or human patient care or treatment or in medical, research, or industrial laboratories, including hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needle), pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, needles with attached tubing, and culture dishes (regardless of presence of infectious agents). Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents, such as used slides and cover slips.

   e. Animal waste. Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research (including research in veterinary hospitals), production of biological, or testing of pharmaceuticals.

   f. Isolation waste. Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans who are isolated to protect others from highly communicable diseases, or isolated animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases.

   g. Unused sharps. Unused, discarded sharps, hypodermic needles, suture needles, and scalpel blades.

2. As used in this chapter, "disinfection or disinfect" means to remove, inactivate, or destroy blood borne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where the surface or item is no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles.

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33-20-12-02. Management standards.

In addition to sections 33-20-01.1-04, 33-20-01.1-05, 33-20-02.1-01, and 33-20-04.1-08, every person who collects, stores, transports, treats, or disposes of regulated infectious waste shall comply with these standards of performance.

1. At the point of origin, regulated infectious waste must be separated from other wastes and placed in distinctive containers which do not leak and which are impervious, puncture resistant, and tear resistant and which contain obvious markings (for example, red or orange plastic bags or the biohazard label). Bags and containers holding regulated infectious waste must be tied, closed, or sealed securely to prevent leakage.

2. At the point of origin, sharps must be:

   a. Separated from other regulated infectious waste, disinfected onsite, rendered nonsharp onsite, and then disposed; or

   b. Placed in rigid and puncture-resistant biohazard containers and handled as required by subsection 5.

3. The handling and storage of regulated infectious waste, before the treatment of subsection 5, must be conducted in a manner which minimizes exposure to employees of the waste generator, the waste transporter, and the public.

4. Recycled containers or devices such as carts used for the handling of wastes must be disinfected after each use.

5. All regulated infectious waste must be incinerated or disinfected and sharps that are not incinerated must be rendered nonsharp before disposal. Incineration and disinfection equipment and facilities shall meet the requirements of article 33-15 and this article.

6. Blood and blood products can be discarded without incineration or disinfection through municipal sewage disposal systems that meet the requirements of article 33-16.

7. The disposal of nonviable human fetuses shall meet the requirements of section 33-03-02-05.

8. An infectious waste which is not regulated by this chapter may be disposed at a permitted municipal waste landfill.

9. Household waste containing regulated infectious waste in amounts normally found in household waste may be disposed of at a permitted municipal waste landfill.

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