

## LAB LEVEL MEDICAL WASTE INSPECTION GUIDANCE

[BIOSAFETY MANUAL](#) - Chapter 11 for more detailed information

### **Biohazard Bags as primary container** (solid waste)

- Biohazard bags used for solid non-sharps waste must be red in color, labeled with the word “BIOHAZARD” and the universal biohazard symbol (No orange, clear, or black bags).
- Biohazard bags must meet both ASTM tests (ASTM D1922) tear resistance and (ASTM D1709) impact resistance tests.
- When finished adding to biohazardous bags, they shall be tied to prevent leakage or expulsion of contents during all future handling and storage (i.e., knot, gooseneck, tie or tape).

### **Biohazard Waste Containers as secondary container** (solid waste)

- Biohazardous waste bags containing waste must be enclosed within a solid waste closed container that is rigid, puncture resistant, leak resistant, composed of a smooth cleanable material, properly labeled with universal biohazard symbols and “BIOHAZARD” on all visible sides:
  - rectangular container must have symbols on all 4 sides and the lid
  - circular container must have symbols on all equilateral points and the lid
- **Tight fitting lids must be closed on all biohazardous waste containers. Lids must be closed when you are not actively collecting waste.**
- No items should ever be placed on top of the medical waste containers, so that the biohazard symbols are viewable at all times.
- Red biohazard bags containing medical waste must be shipped off site within 7 days or 30 days if stored below 32 degrees fahrenheit.
- Biohazard waste containers must be stored in the lab where they are generated or moved directly to a designated accumulation area (DAA). Designated Accumulation Areas must be secure and locked rooms designated for the storage of medical waste before it is shipped off site by the vendor. Biohazardous waste must not be unattended or left in public hallways, autoclave rooms, or left outside of a designated accumulation room.

### **Liquid Biohazardous Waste**

- Dilute with appropriate disinfectant or bleach 1:10 (final concentration = 0.5% sodium hypochlorite), allow 20 minutes for contact time, then dispose into the sewer with running water.

### **Sharps Waste**

- Any waste with acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing human skin (i.e., needles, glass pipettes) must be discarded in a sharps waste container.
- DO NOT OVERFILL sharps containers. Properly dispose of them when they are full.
- Add sharps only to the “Fill to Here” line; cover and dispose of containers when they are  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.

- Sharps containers must have proper fitting lids that are closed when items are not being added and once  $\frac{3}{4}$  full secure the lockable lid feature. Sharps containers without safety trays must be kept closed when not in use.
- Non-biohazardous sharps containers are clearly marked as “non-contaminated” and all biohazard markings are removed, covered or defaced.
- Pharmaceutical wastes are not discarded in sharps containers, but in a pharmaceutical waste container. Contact EH&S if you are unsure if your waste is pharmaceutical waste.

### **Medical Waste Transportation on Campus**

- Prior to transport to a designated accumulation area (DAA), bags are secured and closed inside the lab and then transported to the DAA inside properly labeled, rigid, secondary containers. The transport container lid must be secured shut and the exterior of the container must be decontaminated before leaving the lab.
- All medical waste is transported in a clean, closed secondary container on a cart.
- The secondary transport container must be rigid, puncture-proof, leak resistant, and be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard” on the lids and all lateral sides of the container.

### **Training**

- If the researcher is generating biohazardous and medical waste containing bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials, then Bloodborne Pathogens EHS-PROG-1600 must be completed annually.

### **Segregation and Minimization of Medical Waste**

- Non-contaminated paper towels, non-contaminated gloves and packaging materials should be disposed of as regular trash and not biohazardous waste.

### **Carcass Disposal for Labs Working with Animals**

- Carcasses should be disposed of in a black plastic bag that is labeled with the protocol number.
- Red biohazard bags should ONLY be used to dispose of carcasses that have been exposed to BSL-2 or 3 agents.
- Red biohazard bags must never be used to carry or drape rodent cages during transport.