



Saskatchewan Health Authority

Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

Number: 50-002

Title: Biological Hazard: Waste

Saskatchewan Employment Act:

OHS Regulation: 31-1, 31-6 to 31-8

Date: January 1, 2017

Date Revised/Reaffirmed: December 28, 2021

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Purpose

- To minimize exposure to waste during handling, decontamination or disposal
- To ensure that every worker who generates, collects, transports, cleans, decontaminates or disposes of waste or launders contaminated laundry is trained in and uses safe work practices and procedures

Definition

“Waste” means any biomedical, pharmaceutical or other substance that may be hazardous to the health and safety of a worker and that requires special handling precautions, decontamination procedures or disposal. Waste includes: human and animal anatomical waste; microbiological laboratory waste; blood and body fluid waste; used or contaminated needles, syringes, blades, clinical glass and other used or contaminated clinical items that are capable of causing a cut or puncture.

Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- Waste is segregated at the place where the waste is located or produced
- Waste is contained in a secure, clearly labelled package or container that holds the contents safely until it is cleaned, decontaminated or disposed of
- Waste is cleaned, decontaminated or disposed of in a manner that will not endanger the health or safety of any worker
- Puncture –resistant containers that have a fill line and are labelled as hazardous waste are provided to store waste needles, syringes, blades, clinical glass and other clinical items capable of causing cuts or punctures

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- That roles and responsibilities of all workers are being met, as well as applicable legislation and/or standards
- Safe work practices and procedures are in place and are followed
- All workers or self-employed person who generates, collects, transports, cleans, decontaminates or disposes of waste or launders contaminated laundry is trained in safe work practices and procedures
- Required PPE is supplied and worker has been trained on the care and use of the PPE
- If any equipment becomes contaminated with waste, the equipment is inspected and decontaminated before it is shipped or repaired

- Proper waste containers are made available and are being used by all worker's

Worker must ensure:

- That all policies and procedures related to waste are understood and are followed
- That all required PPE is used and properly maintained
- They use all appropriate containers for waste products
- They report any incidents or near misses to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line

Orientation & Training

- Training in the use and maintenance of PPE
- Training in the handling and disposal of all products contaminated with waste

Materials

- Appropriate containers for waste
- Appropriate PPE if required

Non-Compliance/Breach:

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

Resources

- For complete SHA policies and Procedures on Waste Management, see <https://documentfinder.saskhealthauthority.ca/en>

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

April 27, 2018

December 28, 2021