

MEMORANDUM

To: SC Registered Infectious Waste Transporters

From: Susan E. Jenkins, Manager
Infectious and Radioactive Waste Management Section
Bureau of Land and Waste Management

Subject: Packaging of Infectious Waste

Date: April 3, 2009

This memo is to provide clarification of packaging requirements for regulated infectious waste. It is being sent in response to several inquiries recently received by the Department expressing concern about third party information being provided to some generators. The expressed concern is that the third party information implied that cardboard boxes are not acceptable for packaging infectious waste.

Section P, Transporter Acceptance of Infectious Waste, of the SC Infectious Waste Management Regulations R.61-105 states that:

- (1) Transporters shall accept for transport only infectious waste, which is:
 - (a) packaged as required in Section I.

Section I, Packaging Requirements, of the Regulations states:

- (1) Generators shall assure that infectious waste is properly packaged before transporting or offering for transport.
- (2) Generators shall place and maintain all sharps in rigid, leak resistant, and puncture resistant containers which are secured tightly to preclude loss of the contents and which are designed for the safe containment of sharps.
- (3) All other types of infectious waste must be placed, stored, and maintained before and during transport in a rigid or semi rigid, leak proof container, which is impervious to moisture.
- (4) Containers must have sufficient strength to prevent bursting and tearing during handling, storage, or transportation.
- (5) Containers must be sealed to prevent any discharge of the contents at any time until the container enters the treatment system.
- (8) Infectious waste must be contained in disposable or reusable containers that are appropriate for the type and quantity of waste, must withstand handling, transfer, and transportation without impairing the integrity of the container, must be closed tightly and securely, and must be compatible with selected storage, transportation and treatment processes.
- (9) Reusable containers are acceptable. These containers must be properly disinfected after each use as outlined in Section L. of the regulation.

Therefore, cardboard boxes are acceptable as long as they meet these requirements. Reusable containers are also acceptable as long as they are properly disinfected after each use.

The South Carolina Infectious Waste Management Regulations, R. 61-105 web site is:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/regs/R61-105.pdf>.