

packaged to prevent exposure to solid waste workers and the public. If waste is picked up at a facility before treatment, the waste and transport must meet all regulatory requirements that large and extra large quantity generators do with their waste. A small quantity generator can carry its own waste,

- less than 50 pounds at a time
- packaged and labeled properly
- not in a passenger compartment
- enclosed and protected from the weather
- manifested properly
- in a vehicle that is identified properly,

to another facility for pick-up and treatment, but the waste still needs to be manifested properly with the name and registration number of the small quantity generator. If this waste is not transported before treatment, the waste must be treated by chemical or steam sterilization, or other DHEC approved method. If the treatment method does not change the appearance of the waste container, the container needs to be labeled with the word "Treated" and the date of treatment. Generators must maintain a record of treatment for two years afterward, including: date and type of treatment, amount of waste treated, and individual treating. Local landfills may choose not to accept infectious waste, treated or untreated. If your local landfill will not accept the waste, another disposal method must be found. All infectious waste generated must be weighed.

What do inspections cover?

When a DHEC infectious waste program inspector visits a facility, he or she looks at the waste to verify that it is being stored, packaged and labeled properly and is not leaking or attracting rodents. The inspector verifies that large and extra large quantity generators have an infection control committee and written waste protocol that meet regulatory requirements. The inspector will examine the manifests to make sure that they are being filled out properly. The inspector will also verify that waste is not stored onsite more than 14 days or 30 if refrigerated.



Help

For more information, see the infectious waste management regulations or the guidelines to the regulations posted on DHEC's website:

www.scdhec.gov/infectiouswaste

Or, contact DHEC's infectious waste program at
(803) 896-4000.



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

www.scdhec.gov

*We promote and protect the health of the public
and the environment.*

CR-007066 8/2010



What is Infectious Waste?

Also known as medical or biohazardous waste, this is material that was used in health care, research or postmortem exams. **It includes:**

- Sharps — any waste that may cause a puncture or cut.
- Microbiological specimens — culture dishes, vaccines and other waste that has been exposed to human pathogenic agents.
- Blood and blood products — unabsorbed blood or blood products or absorbed blood when the absorbent is supersaturated (drips when squeezed).
- Pathological waste — parts removed from the human body (unless preserved by a preserving agent) and certain body fluids.
- Contaminated animal waste — parts, bodies and bedding of animals exposed to human pathogens.
- Isolation waste — waste from Biosafety Level 4 agents.
- Other waste — any other waste designated as infectious or any material that has come in contact with infectious waste.

How should infectious waste be packaged and stored?

- Sharps must be placed in rigid, leak- and puncture-resistant containers secured tightly and designed for the safe containment of sharps.
- All other waste should be stored and maintained in a rigid or semi-rigid leak-resistant container that will not allow liquid in or out.
- Containers must be strong enough to resist bursting and tearing during handling and transport and must be able to be closed tightly and securely.
- Plastic bags used inside containers must be red or orange and of sufficient strength to prevent tearing.
- Reusable containers are acceptable but must be disinfected after each use.
- Waste should not be compacted before or during storage or transport.
- Container must be sealed and closed tightly and securely when full by weight or volume or when putrescent.



Waste storage begins when a container is closed.

- While waste is being stored, it must be kept safe from insects and rodents, weather and leaking.
- If the waste is stored outside, the storage area must be locked.
- Access to storage areas must be limited to authorized personnel only.
- Storage areas must be labeled with the OSHA biohazard symbol.
- Waste cannot be stored onsite for more than 14 days; if kept at or below 42° Fahrenheit, waste cannot be stored more than 30 days.
- Waste should have no odor. If it begins to smell, it should be transported immediately.

How should it be transported?

Containers must be labeled at the time of storage.

Labeling must be clearly visible and include:

- Biohazard symbol
- Infectious Waste Program Registration Number
- Date the container was placed in storage or sent off-site, if not stored.



Before waste can be transported, it must be manifested. This manifest must accompany waste at all times after leaving the generating facility.

The manifest must include:

- The generator's name, address and infectious waste program registration number
- A general description of the waste being shipped
- The number of containers and the weight or volume
- Certification by the generator that the waste is packaged, described and labeled properly
- Certification that the waste does not include hazardous or radioactive waste
- The name of the transporter
- The date the transporter picked up the waste
- The date the treatment facility received the waste

Not all of this information will be available when the waste is picked up for transport, although the manifest should include all but the last item at pick-up. The manifest left at the time of pick-up should be retained for 2 years. It may be retained as a paper copy or electronically. Generators are required to have proof of treatment and retain it for 2 years, either on paper or electronically. Generators must also have a record of the weight of the waste generated. This record must be obtained before pick-up, or within 50 days and may be on the manifest, but does not have to be.

Registration

Any facility that generates any infectious waste should register with the infectious waste program.

Registration should include at least:

- The name of the business
- The name of the owner and responsible party (if different)

- Physical location of the site (each site must apply separately)
- Mailing address of site
- Telephone number of site
- Contact name
- Categories and amount (in pounds) of waste generated annually
- Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
- Method of waste treatment and disposal



The registration form is on the Program website. If any of this information changes, the facility is to notify the infectious waste program within 30 days. Registration must be renewed every three years. Fees will be due at time of registration and annually thereafter.

Annual fees

- **Small quantity generators — no fee**
- **Large quantity generators — \$150**
- **Extra-large quantity generators — \$600**

Small quantity generators generate less than 50 pounds of infectious waste per calendar month. If in any calendar month, a facility generates 50 pounds or more of infectious waste, they are no longer a small-quantity generator. A large quantity generator generates between 50 and 999 pounds of infectious waste each calendar month. If in any calendar month a facility generates more than 999 pounds, they are no longer classified as a large quantity generator. An extra-large quantity generator generates 1000 pounds or more per calendar month.

Small Quantity Generators

Small quantity generators have different regulatory allowances compared to large or extra large quantity generators. **Small quantity generators do not have to offer their waste for treatment.**

- Sharps
- Microbiological cultures
- Products of conception
- Human blood and blood products

must be packaged, stored, and treated according to regulatory requirements. All other infectious waste may be disposed of as solid waste after being properly