

Appendix 23d - Approved Handling Procedure - Biohazard Material

Aguisín 23d Níos Imeachta Faofa um Láimhseáil - Ábhar Bithghuaise

Biological waste includes all waste which because of its biological or physical nature presents a risk of infection or inoculation injury, and therefore requires specific disposal procedures. All biohazardous waste which is likely to be infected must be sterilised before leaving the laboratory or research area.

1. Designation of biohazard waste.

- sharps*; - contaminated tissues, etc.;
- human blood, plasma and other clinical waste;
- inoculated microbial media plates;
- contaminated Personal Protective Equipment e.g. disposable gloves/other equipment
- soils; - cell culture/tissue cultures

2. Segregation.

Biohazard waste will be segregated as follows:

(1) Sharps containers - All sharps;

- Contaminated glassware.

(2) Biohazard bags - Contaminated tissues;

- Human tissue, blood & other fluids, etc.;
- Contaminated PPE, etc.;
- Microbial specimens.
- Soils

(3) Glass/aerosol boxes - non-contaminated glass and plastic-ware.

3. Packing/labelling.

All biohazard waste will be disposed of directly into the designated container.

These containers will be labelled as to their biohazard, and any other hazard at the place of origin, using the following colour coding symbols (BS 381C:1980):

Black: Normal Household waste. Not to store or transport biohazardous waste.

Yellow: All biohazardous waste destined for destruction.

Light blue or transparent with light blue inscriptions: Waste for autoclaving (or equivalent treatment) before ultimate disposal.

All such waste must be autoclaved prior to disposal.

No glass or other sharps material are allowed in bags.

Do not overfill containers. In the particular cases of bags and sharps containers, they should not be filled to more than 80% capacity.

4. Storage

Biohazard waste must be stored in a secure, designated area, which is vermin-proof and cleansable. All biohazardous waste which is biodegradable must be frozen ASAP after packaging to prevent further contamination and facilitate collection.

5. Tracking

All biohazard waste will be labelled (Appendix 23e) as to the department and laboratory of origin, dates on which it was produced and signature of laboratory person responsible for supervising the safe disposal of such waste.

6. Transport and disposal

This will be provided by the clinical waste handling service engaged by NUI, Galway.

- “Sharps” refers to any equipment capable of causing a puncture or incision wound.