

REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE *TRANSPORTER FACT SHEET*

(Revised November 2013)

THE NEW JERSEY REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE PROGRAM IS A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSEM THAT PROVIDES FOR THE PROPER AND SAFE TRACKING, ON SITE CONTROL, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL WASTE BY USING A SPECIAL TRACKING FORM TOGETHER WITH SPECIFIC PACKAGING, MARKING, LABELING, REPORTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

**REPORT ALL INCIDENTS CONCERNING RELEASES OF RMW BY CALLING
THE NJDEP 24 HOUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE AT
1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337)**

BACKGROUND

A comprehensive, cradle-to-grave, regulated medical waste (RMW) management program was developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) under New Jersey's Comprehensive Regulated Medical Waste Management Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-48 et seq.), with the assistance of the Department of Health (DOH). Procedures for the proper processing, transportation, and ultimate disposal of RMW are listed in the New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 7, Chapter 26, Subchapter 3A, (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A). Guidelines for general procedures in other medical situations may be found in the DOH Hospital Licensure Manual, Section 306 and in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Instructions (CPL 2-2.44).

The Regulated Medical Waste Fact sheets are publications of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program (SHWMP), Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting. These fact sheets are designed only as information guides, to be read in conjunction with the New Jersey RMW regulations. All persons are responsible for compliance with the RMW Regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A et seq.

COPIES OF REGULATIONS & FORMS

Information regarding the access to the New Jersey Comprehensive Regulated Medical Waste Management Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-48.1 et seq.) and the New Jersey medical waste regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A) is available from the Department's Office of Legal Affairs' webpage at http://www.nj.gov/dep/legal/get_rule.htm The RMW regulations are found at pages 26-139 through 26-156.18. As an alternative to purchasing the regulations, access to an unofficial version of the regulations is made available from the Department's webpage at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/rules.html> New Jersey RMW tracking forms, reporting forms, and technical assistance with regulatory interpretations may be obtained from Mail Code: 401-02C, NJDEP, SHWMP, Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or by calling (609) 984-6985 during normal business hours.

WHAT IS REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6)

RMW is defined as any solid waste, generated in the diagnosis, treatment (e.g., provision of medical services), or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals, that is not excluded or exempted under N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(b) and that is listed or meets any waste characterization criteria described in the table at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a). Refer to the rule for excluded waste (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(b)).

“Treated RMW” means RMW that has been treated to substantially reduce or eliminate its potential for causing disease, but has not yet been destroyed (N.J.A.C.7:26-3A.5).

“Destroyed RMW” means RMW that is no longer generally recognizable as RMW because all components of the waste have been ruined, torn apart, or mutilated to produce unrecognizable and unusable pieces smaller than three-quarters of an inch, except that all sharps must be smaller than one-half inch. It does not mean compaction or encapsulation except through:

1. Processes such as thermal treatment or melting, during which treatment and destruction occur;
2. Processes such as shredding, grinding, tearing, or breaking, during which only destruction takes place; or
3. Processes that melt plastics and fully encapsulate metallic or other sharps in the melted plastic and, in addition, the resulting metal plastic mass must be completely sealed in a secondary puncture-proof container that will not be opened or penetrated by undestroyed sharps in any circumstance of handling.

“Collection facility” means a facility where individual shipments of packaged, tracked regulated medical waste are assembled and/or consolidated, or transferred between vehicles, but are not opened or unpackaged prior to transport off site for disposal.

“Destination facility” means the disposal facility, the incineration facility, or the facility that both treats and destroys regulated medical waste, to which a consignment of such is intended to be shipped, as specified in Box 8 of the Medical Waste Tracking Form. The term “destination facility” also means any generator or facility that treats and destroys its own medical waste.

“Transporter” means a person engaged in the off site transportation of RMW by air, rail, highway, or water (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.5).

“Transfer facility” means any transportation-related facility including loading docks, parking areas, storage areas, and other similar areas where shipments of RMW are held (come to rest), during the course of transportation for a period not to exceed 24 hours and are not transferred to other vehicles during the course of transportation. A transfer facility is a “transporter”. A location at which RMW is transferred directly between two vehicles is not a transfer facility, but is considered a transfer station and must be permitted as such pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26-2.4. (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.5).

**WHO IS A
REGULATED
MEDICAL WASTE
TRANSPORTER
(N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.5)**

REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE TRANSPORTER REQUIREMENTS

**REGISTRATION
AND FEES
(N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.27)**

To legally transport RMW in New Jersey a transporter must: (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.8) *

1. Register as a RMW transporter N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.8;
2. Register as a solid waste transporter in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-3.2, pay fees in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-4, and comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:26-3.2, 3.4, 3.7, and 16; and
3. Obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity as required by N.J.S.A. 48:13A-6.

**Exemption: N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.17(a): Generators of less than 3 cubic feet (50 pounds) of RMW per month who transport only their own RMW to another generator for storage or disposal are exempt from transporter registration requirements provided: (1) the RMW is transported by the generator or authorized employee in a vehicle with a gross weight of less than 8,000 pounds, owned by the generator or authorized employee; (2) the original generation point and the storage point or disposal facility are located in New Jersey; and (3) the generator completes a New Jersey Tracking Form in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.19(e).*

**Exemption: N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.17(b): Generators who transport Class 4 and Class 7 RMW (sharps and unused sharps) through US Postal Service do not need to use a registered medical waste transporter if: 1. the generator generates less than three cubic feet (50 pounds) RMW per month and ships less than 3 cubic feet (50 pounds) of RMW per shipment, 2. the package is sent registered or certified mail, return receipt requested (indicating the person to whom the package is sent, signature of sender, date, and address where delivered) or Priority Mail; 3. the generator shall retain the original mailing receipt and returned registered or certified mail receipt, or in case of Priority Mail, a hard copy of the electronic delivery confirmation (containing at least the name, address, city, state, and zip code of the facility, date of delivery and amount of RMW delivered) attached to the generator copy of the tracking form; and 4. the generator shall comply with tracking form requirements at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.19.*

TRACKING FORMS

Transporters may only accept shipments of RMW accompanied by a properly completed New Jersey Tracking Form from registered generators (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.28(b)). See N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.19 for generator tracking form completion requirements and N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.31 for transporter completion requirements.

Each New Jersey RMW Tracking Form contains 6 copies to be distributed as follows:

Copy 6	Generator Copy – retained by generator
Copy 3, 4, & 5	Transport Copy – retained by transporter
Copy 2	Destination Facility Copy – retained by destination facility owner/operator
Copy 1	Generator Copy – mailed by destination facility back to generator

CONSOLIDATING SHIPMENTS **(N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.33)**

A transporter may choose to consolidate to a single tracking form shipments of RMW (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.33(a)). The transporter must maintain a consolidation log indicating all shipments consolidated on that tracking form (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.33(b)4). The transporter's consolidation log must accompany the tracking form and include all required information (N.J.A.C. 7:26-A.33).

RECORDKEEPING

A transporter must retain the RMW tracking form and any consolidation log for a period of three years from the date the waste was accepted by the transporter unless the Department specifically requires an additional retention period. (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.34).

LABELING AND MARKING

Transporters shall not accept any shipment of RMW from a generator unless the outer surface of the container is properly labeled and marked in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.14 and 3A.15 (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.28(a)).

Labeling means each generator must, prior to offering waste for transport off site, label each container of untreated RMW with a water-resistant label affixed to or printed on the outside of the container. The label shall include the words "Medical Waste" or "Infectious Waste" or display the universal biohazard symbol. Treated RMW or red plastic bags used as an inner container are not required to be labeled (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.14(a)1).

Marking means the generator (including intermediate handlers) must mark the outermost surface of the outer container of RMW prepared for shipment with a water-resistant identification tag containing the generator's or intermediate handler's name and address, the transporter's name and NJDEP solid waste registration number, date of shipment, and identification of the contents as RMW (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.15(a)1). Inner containers have separate marking requirements. See N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.15(a)2.

Note: Transporters, if consolidating loads, are responsible for labeling and marking all packaging (inner and outer) used to meet pre-transport performance standards (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.27).

Transporters of RMW must use vehicles that meet the following requirements (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.30):

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

1. The vehicle must have a fully enclosed, leak resistant cargo carrying body;
2. The transporter must ensure that the RMW does not become putrescent and is not subject to mechanical stress or compaction during loading, unloading, or during transit;
3. The transporter must maintain the cargo carrying body in good sanitary condition;
4. The cargo carrying body must be securely locked if left unattended; and
5. Vehicles used to transport RMW must have on two sides and the back, written in letters of at least 3 inches, the transporter's name, NJDEP solid waste transporter registration number, and an imprinted sign or the words "Medical Waste" or "Infectious Waste".

Note: Solid waste transported with RMW in the same container must be handled as RMW (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.30(c)) in compliance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.27 through 3A.36).

SPILL PLAN

N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.37 requires that transporters develop and implement a Department approved Spill Management Plan to govern the management and decontamination of regulated medical waste spills and to equip all vehicles transporting RMW with a Spill Kit to contain the items listed at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.37(b)1. In certain cases the Department may allow a modified Spill Kit to be used if it deems such kit as adequate to contain RMW spills that may occur specific to the transporter applying for the modification. If such a modified Spill Kit is warranted, a letter stating so shall be issued by the Department

REPORTING

A transporter accepting RMW which is generated, stored, transferred, treated, destroyed, disposed of, or otherwise managed in New Jersey, must submit a RMW transporter report to the NJDEP describing the source and disposition of the waste (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.35).

Transporter must submit annual RMW transporter reports on or before July 30 of each calendar year covering the period of July 1 (previous year) through June 30 (current year) unless the Department specifically requires a different date. N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.35(d).

The transporter reports must be submitted on forms available from the NJDEP and sent to:

Mail Code: 401-02C
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program
Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

RAIL TRANSPORT

See N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.45 for regulatory requirements.

**INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT**

See N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.31(e) and 3A.32 for regulatory requirements for exportation to a foreign country.

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