



ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

Compliance Alert

Making You Aware of Anticipated Enforcement Activities

Compliance and Enforcement

Issued: March 2004

#2004-03

DEP and DHSS to Conduct Compliance and Enforcement Sweep of Medical Waste Generators in Ocean County in Spring 2004

Who is affected by this initiative?

Regulated medical waste generators such as doctors; dentists; veterinarians; hospitals; healthcare facilities; nursing, assisted living and convalescent homes; medical analytical laboratories; outpatient surgical clinics; biomedical research facilities; funeral homes; schools; and body piercing and tattoo parlors are the types of regulated entities that may be affected by this initiative. Unless specifically exempted or excluded from regulation, regulated medical waste or "RMW" is any solid waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals; in research pertaining thereto; or in the production or testing of biologicals. Any person that generates a regulated medical waste within New Jersey must register with the DEP as a regulated medical waste generator and pay an annual registration fee. The following table provides a listing of regulated medical waste types.

TABLE OF REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE

Waste Class	Description
Cultures and Stocks	Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including: cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.
Pathological Wastes	Human pathological wastes, including tissues, organs, and body parts and body fluids that are removed during surgery, autopsy, or other medical procedures, and specimens of body fluids and their containers.
Human Blood and Blood Products	Liquid waste human blood; blood; items saturated and/or dripping with human blood; or items that were saturated and/or dripping with human blood that are now caked with dried human blood including serum, plasma, and other blood components, and their containers, which were used or intended for use in either patient care, testing and laboratory analysis or the development of pharmaceuticals; intravenous bags that come into contact with blood or other regulated body fluid; soft plastic pipettes; and plastic blood vials.
Sharps	Sharps used in animal or human patient care or treatment in medical research; or from industrial laboratories. These include sharp, or

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	potentially sharp items such as, but not limited to, hypodermic needles; all syringes to which a needle can be attached (with or without the attached needle) and their components, including those from manufacturing research, manufacturing and marketing; pasteur pipettes; scalpel blades; blood vials; carpules; and all needles with attached tubing, acupuncture needles and culture dishes regardless of presence of infectious agents. Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents, such as used slides and cover slips.
Animal Waste	Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research (including research in veterinary hospitals), production of biologicals, or testing of pharmaceuticals. Carcasses that are not known to have been exposed to agents infectious to humans are considered Waste Type ID 25, and, therefore, are not included in this class.
Isolation Wastes	Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans who are isolated to protect others from certain highly communicable diseases, or from isolated animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases.
Unused Sharps	The following unused, discarded sharps, that were intended to be used: hypodermic needles, suture needles, syringes, and scalpel blades.

Why are DEP and DHSS focusing on Ocean County?

DEP and DHSS want to verify that shore communities are continuing to maintain a high level of compliance with medical waste requirements. While DEP and DHSS do not have direct evidence that shows that medical waste is being improperly disposed of, the Departments recognize that shore counties have an important stake in assuring that their medical waste is properly sorted, collected and discarded. Assuring the cleanliness and safety of our shores is crucial to a strong and vibrant tourist economy.

What are DEP and DHSS doing?

The DEP in partnership with the DHSS will be conducting a two-phase initiative for Ocean County. The first phase, known as the Compliance Sweep, will begin in March 2004. A copy of this advisory will be mailed to over 1,700 known and potentially regulated individuals, businesses and government operations as well as trade associations. DHSS will be providing several training sessions as well during this phase. The second phase, known as the Enforcement Sweep, will involve a large-scale inspection effort occurring over the course of at least two full weeks beginning in April 2004. These inspections will be **unannounced**. Non-compliance found during the Enforcement Sweep will be addressed with Notices of Violation and with penalties where appropriate.

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What should I do?

1. Register if required. Any person that generates a regulated medical waste within New Jersey must register with the DEP as a regulated medical waste generator and pay an annual registration fee.
2. Review guidance at the web links below for proper handling and disposal of RMW.
3. Check the DEP web for announcements of training sessions at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/medwaste/medwaste.htm>.

Whom should I contact with questions?

Regulatory Requirements:

DEP's Bureau of Resource Recovery and Technical Programs (609) 984-6620

Medical Waste Registration Numbers:

DEP's Bureau of Hazardous Waste Regulation (609) 292-7081
Select Option 3

Inspections or Enforcement Actions:

DEP's Bureau of Solid Waste Compliance & Enforcement (609) 584-4180
or
DHSS's Public Health, Sanitation & Safety Program (609) 588-3124

Healthcare Management:

DHSS's Public Health, Sanitation & Safety Program (609) 588-3124

Where can I get more information?

The following web sites can be accessed for additional information:

DEP Registered Medical Waste Compliance & Enforcement Sweep web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/medwaste/medwaste.htm>

The Department's Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste provides information concerning regulated medical waste at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/rrtp/rmw.htm>

DHSS has a site that lists information about home self-care waste management and discusses the safe syringe disposal program instituted by the New Jersey Hospitals Association at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/syringe.pdf>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.