



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING
DISPOSAL OF INFECTIOUS WASTES
FROM
HOSPITALS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
AND LABORATORIES**

Approved:

BOARD OF HEALTH.....September 11, 1981

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REGULATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Regulations Governing Disposal of Infectious Wastes from Hospitals, Health Care Facilities and Laboratories promulgated under provisions of the Philadelphia Code, Title 6 - Health Code, Section 6-402(4) Institutions, and Section 6-401(1) Industrial Establishments.

A. Scope of Regulations

These regulations are promulgated under provisions of the Philadelphia Code, Title 6, Health Code, and the delegated responsibility of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health to safeguard the public health, and shall apply to all hospitals, health care facilities and laboratories in the City where infectious wastes may be produced or handled and to transporters who import infectious waste from hospitals, health care facilities and laboratories located outside of the City for the purpose of storage or disposal within the City.

B. Definitions

1. Approved

Approval by the Department in accordance with any law, ordinance, regulation, standard, or accepted practice which has been determined by the Department to safeguard public health.

2. Department

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Commissioner of the said Department, or any authorized representative thereof.

3. Health Care Facility

A facility or location where medical, dental, surgical or nursing attention or treatment is provided to humans or animals.

4. Infectious Wastes

a. Equipment, instruments, utensils, and other objects capable of transmitting infectious materials from areas or rooms where persons or animals with suspected or diagnosed communicable disease are housed or treated which are not intended for re-use and which are designated for disposal.

b. Human and animal specimens and disposable objects capable of transmitting infectious materials derived from surgical or other medical procedures on persons or animals with suspected or diagnosed communicable disease.

c. Laboratory wastes which may harbor or transmit infectious materials.

5. Laboratory

Any place, establishment, or institution organized and operated for the performance of all or any microbiological, biochemical, hematological, microscopical, immunological, parasitological or other

tests, examinations or evaluations and those facilities that work with pathogens or animals or that use various biotechnologies which generate infectious waste.

6. Storage

The containment of infectious wastes at the generating or disposal site on a temporary basis in such a manner as not to constitute disposal of such wastes. The containment of infectious wastes on motor vehicles and/or trailers constitutes storage if the vehicle or trailer remains in the same premises or location longer than twenty-four hours. Infectious wastes shall not be stored on vehicles, trailers or in other areas at the same premises or location or at a site other than the generating or disposal site in excess of three days.

7. Transporter

Any person, business entity or agency engaged in the off-site transportation by air, rail, highway, water or any other means of any infectious waste generated or destined for storage or disposal in Philadelphia at any time after generation.

C. Requirements for Storage

Infectious wastes awaiting disposal shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent odor nuisances, leakage, spillage, safety or health hazards and access by insects or rodents.

D. Requirements for Disposal

Where infectious wastes are produced or handled it shall be the responsibility of the hospital, health care facility or laboratory to handle and dispose of these wastes by on-site disposal, off-site disposal, or other approved method as set forth below. Where infectious wastes are imported for the purpose of storage or disposal, it shall be the responsibility of the transporter to handle and dispose of these wastes in accordance with 2 and 3 below.

1. On-site Disposal

a. Containment and handling of infectious wastes to avoid leakage or spillage.

b. Sterilization of infectious laboratory wastes by approved autoclaving or other approved method prior to disposal on-site.

c. Disposal of solid infectious wastes by approved incineration with a secondary chamber temperature in the range of 1600 - 1800°F.

2. Off-site Disposal

a. Containment and handling of infectious wastes to avoid leakage or spillage.

b. Sterilization of infectious laboratory wastes by approved autoclaving or other approved method prior to transport off-site.

c. Transportation of infectious wastes in an approved manner to avoid leakage or spillage.

d. Disposal of infectious wastes by approved incineration with a secondary chamber temperature in the range of 1600 - 1800°F.

3. Other

a. Other approved handling or disposal methods.

E. Submission of Plans and Specifications

All hospitals, health care facilities and laboratories where infectious wastes are produced or handled and transporters who import infectious waste must submit for review and approval to the Department a proposed handling and disposal plan for such wastes together with complete specifications. Such plan must be submitted within sixty days following the effective date of the adoption of these regulations.

F. Disposal Facility Design, Construction and Operation

All on-site or off-site disposal facilities shall be so designed, constructed and operated as to comply with any applicable governing code, regulation or standard. Such installations within the City of Philadelphia shall comply with the Philadelphia Health Code and Philadelphia Air Management Code and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act and other applicable Federal, State or City laws, ordinances, or regulations. Such installations utilized outside of the City shall comply with applicable codes, laws, and regulations of governmental agencies having jurisdiction.

G. Inspection

The Department or other City departments having appropriate jurisdiction may conduct inspections to insure compliance with these or other applicable Federal, State, or City laws, ordinances and regulations, take specimen samples, make appropriate on-site or off-site tests and require maintenance of records of disposal operations.

Section 6-103 PENALTIES*

(1) In addition to any other sanction or remedial procedure provided, any person who shall violate any provision of this Title, any Regulation adopted under it, any order of the Department issued thereunder, or any condition of any license required thereunder and any person who knowingly participates in any such violation by any other person or who has reason to know that his participation will materially contribute to any such violation by another person, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25. and not more than \$150. for the first violation and not less than \$50. and not more than \$300. for the second and each subsequent violation together with imprisonment not exceeding 90 days if the fine and costs are not paid within 10 days. Continuous violation of the same provisions shall be a separate violation for each day.

*NOTE: *The provisions of Section 6-103 apply to all violations of the Health Code. They are printed here, in part, for information only.*