

MEMORANDUM

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

TO : Sheldon Albert, City Solicitor - Law- 1540 MSB DATE May 4, 1976
FROM : Anthony J. Durkin, Administrative Services Director -
Department of Records - 158 CH
SUBJECT: REGULATIONS GOVERNING DISPOSAL OF PATHOLOGICAL WASTES
FROM HOSPITALS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND LABORATORIES

The subject regulations promulgated by the Health Department were received in the Department of Records for filing and advertising on April 1, 1976.

Inasmuch as there were no requests for hearings these regulations became effective May 1, 1976.

cc: Dr.L.D.Polk, Acting Health Commissioner

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

APPROVED:

BOARD OF HEALTH.....March 17, 1976
LAW DEPARTMENT.....March 31, 1976
RECORDS DEPARTMENT.....

PROPOSED REGULATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Regulations Governing Disposal of Pathological 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 pathological wastes may be produced or handled.

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

An institution where medical, dental, surgical, or nursing attention or treatment is provided to patients on an in-patient resident basis.

4. Pathological Wastes

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

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.

C. Requirements for Disposal

Where pathological 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.

1. On-site disposal

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

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

c. Disposal of liquid pathological wastes or excreta through sanitary sewerage systems.

d. Disposal of solid pathological wastes by approved incineration.

2. Off-site disposal

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

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

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

d. Disposal of pathological wastes by approved incineration.

3. Other

a. Other approved handling or disposal methods.

D. Submission of Plans and Specifications

All hospitals, health care facilities and laboratories where pathological wastes are produced or handled 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 60 days following the effective date of the adoption of these regulations.

E. 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.

F. Storage

Pathological 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.

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.

3/17/76