ODU Guidelines for Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste

BAGGED WASTE

1. All Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) contained in bags must be submitted to the B.S.S.F / EHS & Health Science for sterilization in approved red Regulated Medical Waste bags, double bagged and placed in approved Sterilization trays, which each lab must provide their own.

   • Approved Regulated Medical Waste bags must be:
     o Red in color
     o Bear the Biohazard label, at least 2”.
     o Bear the words "Potentially Infectious Material" or "Biohazardous"
     o Bear the words "Autoclave Bag"
     o Made of Polypropylene
     o Mil thickness of at least 2.0 mil
     o Examples:
       - Fisherbrand No. 01-828D
       - ThomasSci 1186Y70
   
     • No glass may be placed in red Regulated Medical Waste bags.

2. Unless specifically used to cleanup a biohazard spill, no paper towels should be placed in red Regulated Medical Waste bags. Towels used to routinely clean a work surface before and after use, should be placed in "uncontaminated" waste receptacle.

3. All bags shall be filled no more than \( \frac{3}{4} \) full.

4. All bags must be closed with closures, twist ties or rubber bands, prior to submission to B.S.S.F/EHS, to allow steam penetration during sterilization, i.e., do not tape bags closed tightly.

5. Regulated Medical Waste bags will be accepted for sterilization as follows:
   • B.S.S.F (MGB 207): Wednesday Only. No later than 10am
   • Health Science: Discretion of the Autoclave operator

6. All regulated medical waste generated by your laboratory must be disposed of (i.e., brought to B.S.S.F/Health Science) within 7 days of generation.

7. All Regulated Medical Waste bags must include, prior to drop off:
   • Generator's/ PIs Name
   • Bldg & Room Number
   • Identify by genus the agents being disposed of, clearly labeled on the bag prior to submission for sterilization.

8. The generator of the Regulated Medical Waste assumes all responsibility for assuring the autoclave operator, B.S.S.F and personnel that absolutely no hazardous waste, i.e., chemicals or radioactive waste, is contained in the red Regulated Medical Waste bags submitted for treatment.
9. It will be the responsibility of the individual labs to retrieve their trays once they have been sterilized.
   - Trays that are not marked will remain in BSSF autoclave room for future use.

**NOTE:** If you are working with a known biological pathogen, please inform the B.S.S.F. personnel of the pathogen. The B.S.S.F. will treat ALL waste with Universal Precautions, but may be able to process or quarantine specific pathogens more readily if known.

---

**GLASS AND PIPETTES**

1. **Broken Glass:**
   - Contaminated glass should be placed in a sharps container.
   - Non-contaminated glass can be placed in a bagged lined cardboard box marked "Broken Glass". Box is to be disposed with normal trash.

2. **Serological Pipettes:**
   - These must be placed in an approved sterilization tray, (no bags) no more than ¾ full and covered with foil prior to bringing to 207 MGB for treatment in the sterilizer.
   - Please be sure to label your trays with the following:
     o Pl’s name,
     o Room Number,
     o List of all agents used
   - Pipettes and will be accepted for treatment on any weekday except Wednesday.
   - It will be the responsibility of the individual labs to retrieve their trays once they have been sterilized and to dispose of the waste.
   - Trays that are not marked will remain in BSSF autoclave room for future use.
LIQUID WASTE

Labs that bring their liquid waste to MGB 207:

- Please **label all** submitted liquid waste with the agents contained in the waste. Primary containers must be placed into an autoclavable sterilization tray prior to submitting the liquid for autoclaving.
- Liquid waste will be accepted for treatment on any weekday except Wednesday.
- It will be the responsibility of the individual labs to retrieve their trays once they have been sterilized and to dispose of the waste.

SHARPS WASTE

1. All sharps must be submitted in a closed, approved sharps container, seal with autoclave tape.
2. If Sharps container is broke or missing lid(s), place entire container into a larger container. Do not attempt to tape broken lids or entire top of container. Empty defective containers should be placed in trash.
3. All sharps containers must have the following information clearly labeled on the container, **prior** to submission to B.S.S.F or Health Sciences:
   - Generators name
   - Room number and building.
   - If agents are used indicate the genus on the sharps container.
4. Once sterilized, ODU must send sharps off campus to a contracted vendor for incineration.

**Approved sharps containers**

Are rigid, leak-proof, puncture resistant boxes of various sizes made of hard red plastic, with a lid that can be securely sealed to keep contents from falling out, and clearly marked with the biohazard symbol.
Approved sterilization tray:

- Fisher Scientific (Cat. #13-359-20B) - Thermo Scientific Nalgene Large Polypropylene Sterilizing Pans
- If there’s another tray that could be an option, have it approved through BSSF staff prior to placing and order.

Transport of waste

- All bagged or liquid waste and serological pipettes must be placed in the approved sterilization trays, covered with foil for pipettes and placed on a cart for transport to MGB 207 for sterilization.
- Never hand carry any Regulated Medical Waste outside of the labs.
- Pipettes and liquid waste will be accepted for treatment on any weekday except Wednesday.