Clinical/Biological Waste Handbook

Packaging
Clinical/biological waste must be packaged securely to eliminate, or at least minimise the risk of waste being released during normal handling of the waste between the laboratory and incinerator. Safety Services and the waste disposal contractor have approved the following types of packaging:

- yellow plastic sacks. Yellow sacks must not be filled more than 2/3 full and must be closed with a tie
- yellow, 60litre plastic bins. Bins must not be overloaded (maximum weight 10kg)
- yellow plastic sharps containers that comply with British Standard BS 7320

Safety Services can provide yellow sacks and UN type approved 60litre plastic bins.

The different types of clinical/biological waste must be packaged as follows:

- **any tissue, blood, other body fluids and urine from humans or animals**
  This waste can be placed in a sack unless it contains anything likely to puncture the sack in which case a plastic bin should be used.

- **all sharps**
  Any item likely to puncture skin must be placed in properly assembled sharps containers for disposal.

- **all syringe bodies**
  Syringe bodies can be placed in a sack, but if used with a hypodermic needle then to eliminate the need to disconnect the two both the needle and syringe body must be placed in sharps bin.

- **potentially infectious items and materials from laboratories working with micro-organisms**
  This waste can be placed in a sack unless it contains anything likely to puncture the sack in which case a plastic bin should be used.
potentially infectious items and materials from laboratories working with blood, other body fluids including urine, or any tissue from humans or animals.

This waste can be placed in a sack unless it contains anything likely to puncture the sack in which case a plastic bin should be used.

animal bedding that may present a risk to a person coming into contact with it

This waste can be placed in sacks for disposal.

animal carcasses

Animal carcasses must be placed in 60litre plastic bins for disposal.

Labelling

The following information must be displayed on the packages:

1. Danger sign giving classification for transport

Infectious substance, class 6.2

The yellow sacks and 60litre bins provided by Safety Services display this information.

2. Proper Shipping Name and UN number

Clinical Waste, Unspecified, NOS   UN 3291.

Rigid bins and sacks provided by the Safety Services have this information.

3. Source of waste

The waste must be labelled so that it is possible to identify the origin of the waste. Pre-printed labels provided by Safety Services include provision for the department and laboratory details. However, if for security reasons producers of waste require anonymity the waste can be labelled with a code to identify the source of the waste. Safety Services should be provided with details of the code.
Storage
Clinical/biological waste must be stored securely. To achieve this clinical/biological waste must be packaged and labelled correctly in the laboratory, and taken to a designated collection point as soon as the container is full. Waste must not be allowed to accumulate at any other location with the exception of animal carcasses. Animal carcasses must be stored frozen until collection from a designated point. At present Safety Services have agreed the following points of collection:
1. SJB waste store
2. Forensic Medicine
3. Mechanical Engineering Microbiology Laboratory
4. Institute of Sport and Exercise
5. Occupational Health Service
6. University Health Service
Departments must ensure that waste stores are kept tidy, clean, and if necessary disinfected.

Final Disposal
Safety Services will arrange for an authorised waste contractor to collect waste for disposal. The contractor will uplift only waste packaged securely and properly labelled. In addition, any packages that are externally contaminated will not be uplifted.