



HAZARDOUS WASTE FROM OFF-POST CLINICS

TECHNICAL INFORMATION PAPER No. 37-021-1017

PURPOSE. To provide basic information and references on turning in hazardous waste (HW) generated by U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) medical treatment facilities (MTF) not located on military installations.

REFERENCES. See the Appendix for a list of reference information.

POINTS OF MAJOR INTEREST AND FACTS

BACKGROUND

This technical information paper introduces federal, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Department of Defense (DOD), and Army regulatory requirements for turning in HW generated by medical treatment facilities not located on a military installation. Specific HW management procedures such as waste identification, storage, labeling, and state specific requirements are not discussed. Contact the supporting installation's environmental office or MTF Environmental Science and Engineering Officer (ESEO) for detailed information on state requirements and HW identification and management procedures.

Community Based Medical Homes are military or contractor-run, medical treatment facilities located off post in the communities where military families live. Services provided by these facilities typically include patient exams, laboratory testing, imaging, and pharmacy services.

Small amounts of HWs are generated at many of these clinics. Depending on the types of health care services provided, HW quantities and type generated vary. These wastes have to be managed by off-post clinics meeting Federal, State, DLA Disposition Services, DOD, and Army requirements.

HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATED BY MEDICAL HOMES

Examples of potential HWs generated by off-site Medical Homes include but are not limited to:

- Toxic and ignitable waste pharmaceuticals
- Ignitable laboratory stains and reagents
- Aerosol cans still containing product or not at atmospheric pressure
- Mercury containing dental amalgam and traps/filters
- Expired ignitable hand sanitizers

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- Toxic silver nitrate cauterization sticks
- Toxic lamps
- Corrosive and toxic batteries

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 261, also known as Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (or RCRA) Subtitle C, specifies the requirements for managing HW.

HAZARDOUS WASTE IDENTIFICATION

A solid waste becomes a HW when it exhibits a characteristic of a HW (ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic) or is listed in Federal or State regulations as a HW. Generators of solid waste must identify and characterize wastes generated at their site using either knowledge of the materials and processes that generate the waste, the waste's safety data sheet, or through laboratory analysis of the waste.

Waste characterization procedures are beyond the scope of this information paper. A tool for identifying HW is the U.S. Army Public Health Center's (APHC) Military Item Disposal Instruction (MIDI) system. It provides the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) HW disposal codes and methods of destruction for the disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous items used within the DOD. The MIDI system is located at <http://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/MIDI/>

Some waste specific fact sheets located at the APHC website (<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/Pages/Library.aspx>) include:

- Management of P-Listed Pharmaceutical Containers
- Management of Unused Pharmaceutical Nitroglycerin
- Management of Used and Unused Insulin
- Management of Waste Dental Amalgam
- Nitroglycerin Patch Management
- Classification of Expired Pharmaceuticals

HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATOR CATEGORIES

Hazardous waste generators must calculate the quantity of acute and nonacute HW generated each month to establish a generator class, which then determines the RCRA regulations with which they must comply. "Acute" HWs are certain extremely HWs, typically pure chemicals; all other HWs are "nonacute."

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Conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQG). Based on the small amounts of HW generated, off-post clinics are CESQGs. CESQG generate in a calendar month:

- No more than 1 kilogram (kg) (2.2 pounds (lbs.)) of acute HW,
- No more than 100 kg (220 lbs.) of acute HW spill cleanup residue, and
- No more than 100 kg (220 lbs.) of nonacute HW.

CESQGs are exempt from many regulatory requirements if they:

- Identify and count all HW they generate;
- Store no more than 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs.) of nonacute HW, no more than 100 kg (220 lbs.) of acute HW spill cleanup residue, or no more than 1 kg (2.2 lbs.) of other acute HW on-site at any time.

Small quantity generators (SQGs). Under Federal rules, if any of the permissible quantity limits for CESQG are exceeded, the HW generator becomes a SQG and faces more regulatory requirements than a CESQG. Contact the supporting installation's environmental office or MTF ESEO if the CESQG category is exceeded to determine the specific HW management requirements for this category such as an EPA ID number. SQGs generate in a calendar month:

- Between 100 kg (220 lbs.) and 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs.) of nonacute HW,
- No more than 100 kg (220 lbs.) of acute HW spill cleanup residue,
- No more than 1 kg (2.2 lbs.) of other acute HW.

SQGs may not:

- Accumulate more than 6,000 kg (13,200 lbs.) of HW at any time and
- Store HW on-site for more than 180 days.

DETERMINING HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATOR STATUS

The HW generator status is dependent on how much HW is generated monthly and in storage. The easiest method to determine the quantity of HW generated in a calendar month is for a designated person to document it on a Container Hazardous Waste Accumulation Log. Each time HW is added to a container, the quantity must be documented on a log sheet. At the end of each calendar month, collect all accumulation logs and calculate the total amount of HW generated (in pounds) as well as HW in storage. Exceeding the maximum monthly quantity of HW of any generator class will move a facility into the next generator class, which has stricter regulatory requirements.

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The generator may exclude certain HWs from counting, for example, wastes that are recycled. For assistance with identifying excluded HWs, off-post medical clinics should contact the supporting military installation's environmental office or MTF ESEO.

The MTF ESEO should be informed of the monthly HW generation totals for budgeting purposes. All HW generation records must be maintained on file and readily available for review for a minimum of 3 years.

HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE LOCATIONS/COLLECTION POINTS

Regulations specify where HW can be stored, waste segregation, collection container requirements, required wording of container labels, and set limits on waste storage duration and volumes. Typically, HWs are stored in small amounts in satellite accumulation points (SAPs) which are collection points located near the location where the HW is generated. Contact the ESEO or installation environment office for assistance with establishing a SAP.

Once permissible SAP storage quantity limits are reached, HW is generally moved to a centrally located HW storage area, which is typically operated by the installation environmental office, and finally transported offsite by a contractor to an EPA permitted treatment, storage, or disposal facility.

Federal and state regulations do not allow centrally located HW storage areas to accept HW from off-site generators unless the storage area maintains an EPA permit. Few military installations are in possession of an EPA permit. For HW turn-in, off-post clinics must contact the installation environmental office to coordinate HW removal by a DLA contractor. HW lamps and batteries managed as universal waste are exempt from this requirement and may be accepted by a HW storage area without a permit. Universal wastes are a HW subcategory which provides several regulatory exemptions.

HAZARDOUS WASTE TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

Title 40 CFR Part 262.20 specifies generators who offer for transport a HW for off-site treatment, storage, or disposal at a permitted facility, must prepare an EPA HW shipping manifest. CESQG are exempt from this requirement; however, DLA Disposition Services waste removal contracts require the use of manifests regardless. Universal wastes are exempt from using a HW shipping manifests and may be transported on a non-EPA shipping document.

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State Regulations

Always check your state requirements, or contact your installation environmental office or ESEO, for additional requirements for HW generators.

DOD Regulations

DOD 4500.9-R-Part II, Defense Transportation Regulation, Chapter 204, specifies DOD personnel (military, civilians, and contractors) moving HM (which includes HW) must comply with the Title 49 CFR transportation regulations. Personnel involved in the packaging, shipment, or transportation of HM must also meet certain training requirements. Persons signing shipping papers must be trained and certified by a DOD approved school and appointed in writing by the activity or unit commander. Specific training requirements and DOD approved schools are listed in the regulation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE TURN-IN BY ARMY COMMUNITY BASED MEDICAL HOMES

MEDCOM personnel (active duty, civilians, and contractors) are not authorized to transport HW on public roads. Arrangements must be made with the supporting military installation environmental office for removal of HW from off-post medical clinics by a DLA Disposition Services authorized waste contractor.

RECORDKEEPING

Off-site clinics must maintain the following records for a minimum of 3 years:

- HW training records
- HM training records for personnel preparing HM for shipment
- Training certificate per DOD Instruction 4500.9-R-Part II, Chapter 204
- Signature authority letter by commander if signing HW manifests
- Copies of HW manifests if signed by clinic personnel
- Monthly HW generation totals

CONCLUSION

Community Based Medical Homes located off post generally fall into the CESQG category of federal HW regulations. These clinics are usually located near a major military installation. MEDCOM personnel are not authorized to transport HW on public roads. Unless an installation is in possession of a regulatory permit allowing it to accept HW from off-site generators, Community Based Medical Homes cannot turn in HW to the installation (universal wastes are excluded from this). Arrangements must be made

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with the installation environmental office for a HW pick-up by a DLA Disposition Services waste contractor.

DOD regulation requires individuals signing HW manifests to be trained and certified by a DOD approved school and have written signature authority by the commander. If the supporting installation environmental office is unable to sign the manifests for the Medical Home at the time of the HW pickup, contact the MTF ESEO for training and funding assistance.

Prepared by: Waste Management Program

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Appendix

References

Department of Defense 4500.9-R-Part II, Defense Transportation Regulation, Chapter 204, 16 August 2013.

Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1975. Public Law 93-933, January 3, 1975 (49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.)

Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Public Law 91-596, December 29, 1970 (29 U.S.C. § 651 et seq.)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Public Law 94-580, October 21, 1976 (42 U.S.C. §6901 et seq.)