

# Waste Acceptance Criteria

## Wastes arising from human healthcare



# 2019

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# Introduction

The law requires anyone dealing with waste to keep it safe, make sure it's dealt with responsibly and make sure it's only given to businesses authorised to take it. These requirements are known as 'the Duty of Care'.

As a Stericycle customer you're in safe hands. We're here to help you through every stage of the process to ensure you meet your duty of care. This guide is an important stage in that process. It will help you to understand how your waste must be classified, segregated and packaged to enable us to deal with it responsibly. Please read it and keep a copy safe for future reference.

Our waste treatment facilities operate to the highest standards of compliance. Each one operates in accordance with the terms of a permit or licence designed to prevent harm to human health and the environment. Our permits and licences require us to carry out checks on the nature of the waste we receive.

The purpose of these checks is to ensure we only accept wastes that we are allowed to, and that are suitable for the treatment process. Healthcare wastes may contain substances which can damage the treatment process or give rise to harmful emissions, so completion of these checks is important.

There are four stages to this checking process, they are:

**Stage 1: Contract set-up** - We'll agree on the classification and description of the waste.

**Stage 2: Pre-acceptance audit** - To ensure you are managing the wastes correctly on your site.

**Stage 3: Technical assessments** - If you have a waste that might fall outside these acceptance criteria.

**Stage 4: Acceptance checks** - We'll visually inspect the waste packages you send us.

This guide sets out the waste acceptance criteria and packaging requirements for all of our waste treatment facilities in England and Wales. Failure to comply with the requirements in the guide may lead to your waste not being collected. It may also lead to:

- Damage to Stericycle vehicles, plant and equipment.
- Harm to human health and the environment.
- Investigation and possible prosecution by the regulators for various offences with a maximum penalty of an unlimited fine and up to five years in prison.
- Cost recovery by Stericycle for damage caused and any additional costs for the management of your waste.

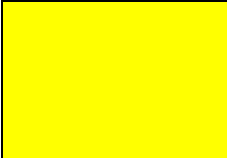

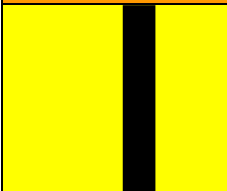


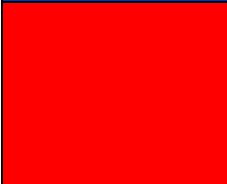
## General requirements

Many of the wastes collected and treated by Stericycle have the potential to harm human health or the environment if they are packaged, transported or treated incorrectly. You must ensure that the waste conforms to the following general requirements.

### Waste packaging

To ensure compliance with the environmental, health and safety and transport legislation all wastes should conform to the segregation and packaging standards specified in the Department of Health Guidance HTM 07-01 Safe Management of Healthcare Waste.

The adoption of these colours aids segregation and compliance. For ease of reference these are:

Colour		Waste description	Minimum disposal method
	Yellow	Infectious or potentially infectious clinical waste contaminated with chemicals or medicinal wastes Highly infectious wastes requiring incineration	Incineration
	Orange	Infectious or potentially infectious soft clinical waste with no chemical or medicinal contamination	Alternative Treatment
	Yellow and black stripe (Tiger)	Non-infectious (offensive) recognisable healthcare wastes not contaminated with infectious bodily fluids, medicines or chemicals.	Landfill
	Purple	Hazardous cytotoxic / cytostatic medicines / sharps for incineration	High Temperature Incineration
	Blue	Non-hazardous medicinal waste for incineration	Incineration
	Red	Anatomical waste for Incineration	Incineration

Waste packaging must be suitable to the waste contained within and where Carriage of Dangerous Goods and/or ADR legislation applies the packaging must be UN approved.

Unless prior arrangements have been made with Stericycle only the packaging listed below is acceptable:

- Approved clinical waste sacks (if your waste is not collected in a cart the sack must be approved for carriage in bulk)
- Sharps containers (single use and reusable Biosystems containers)
- Rigid single use containers (plastic and cardboard bins)
- Original packaging provided that such packaging is acceptable packaging for transport

All packages must be closed and sealed prior to collection and where appropriate should be:

- Labelled with the details of the producer and the date the package was sealed.
- Appropriately labelled for transport in advance of collection.
- Placed into UN approved wheeled carts for collection or collected loose depending on the contractual arrangements between you and Stericycle.

Where waste is placed in a cart for collection it:

- must be placed in the cart in such a way that the lid can be closed and locked, and
- the correct BioTrack tag must be attached to the cart prior to collection to identify the customer and the waste contained within the cart

The following criteria must be applied:

- All carts must be closed and locked for collection.
- The cart must be tagged with a BioTrack tag.
- The maximum weight of any one package must not exceed 20kg.
- The maximum gross weight of a cart must not exceed 200kg (max 150kg of waste in a 50kg cart) and not more than 40 packages may be placed in any one cart.
- Incompatible materials must be packaged separately and must never be placed into the same cart.
- Not more than 10kg of glass may be placed in any one package or cart.
- You must provide storage facilities on your premises that are secure and can be safely accessed by our service drivers.

## Waste segregation

Wastes should conform to the segregation and packaging standards specified in the Department of Health Guidance HTM 07-01 Safe Management of Healthcare Waste. Segregation aids the disposal of the waste and maximises the potential to apply the waste hierarchy, which will ultimately reduce the environmental impact of all of our activities.

HTM 07-01 requires that waste is segregated into four primary streams depending on its handling and disposal requirements. The basic waste streams are:

- Wastes which must be incinerated
- Wastes which can be treated
- Wastes containing cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
- Offensive wastes which are suitable for landfilled

Stericycle requires that incineration only wastes are further separated to ensure that in handling your waste that we fully comply with our permits and licences. As such, incineration only wastes must be further segregated into the following categories:

- Anatomical waste
- Sharps waste
- Waste medicines (excluding cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines)
- Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
- Category A pathogen wastes (highly infectious wastes)

Under the Hazardous Waste Regulations all waste producers have a duty to prevent the mixing of wastes. Failure to present your waste segregated in accordance with the principles of HTM 07-01 could result in your waste being rejected. If the failure has resulted in a breach of the regulations or our permit we may have to report the occurrence to the regulator. This could result in the regulator taking enforcement action against you.



## Waste auditing and assessment

Because of the nature of healthcare wastes it is not feasible or desirable to open waste containers once they have been sealed by the customer except in exceptional circumstances by persons who are specially trained and are wearing appropriate PPE. As such the regulators require all producers of healthcare waste to conduct waste pre-acceptance audits to demonstrate that they are complying with their duty of care.

You must complete a waste pre-acceptance audit and provide it to us at the start of the contract and thereafter at the minimum frequency specified below:

Customer Type	Audit Refresher Period
Customers producing more than 5 tonnes of clinical waste per year	Annually
Vets, dentists and research laboratories	Once every 2 years
All other customers	Once every 5 years

Stericycle will not be able to accept healthcare and related wastes at any of its facilities unless it is in possession of a current suitable and sufficient waste pre-acceptance audit which demonstrates that the waste has been correctly segregated, described and consigned.

To be accepted, the waste pre-acceptance audit provided must comply with the requirements set out in HTM 07-01 Safe Management of Healthcare Waste and the Environment Agency Sector Guidance Note EPR5.07 Clinical Waste.

Stericycle has developed a range of auditing services which meet these requirements. These include in person auditing services and online auditing tools. There may be a charge for these services.

If you produce less than 5 tonnes of clinical waste per year you may be eligible to sign up for our online audit tool at [www.srcl-audit.com](http://www.srcl-audit.com).

Email: [audits@stericycle.com](mailto:audits@stericycle.com)

Call: 0333 240 4400

Your Account representative is:

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## APPENDIX

### Additional requirements and restrictions

To protect the environment and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements Stericycle requires its customers to observe with the following specific requirements and restrictions on waste arriving at any of its facilities.

Most types of healthcare waste do not contain any of the following materials in quantities above the acceptable limits; however, should you produce any waste chemicals or large quantities of waste pharmaceuticals (i.e. more than one waste container at a time of a single drug or product) you must review the information in the following table.

Waste Composition		
Parameter	Maximum acceptable levels	
Calorific Value	5 MJ/kg to	35 MJ/kg
Volatile Heavy Metals and PCBs	Not acceptable in any quantity	
Waste containing mercury	Only acceptable segregated into dental amalgam containers	
Lead	Not more than 100g in total per package	No more than 500g in total per wheeled cart
Copper		
Nickel		
Arsenic		
Chromium		
Zinc		
Manganese		
Antimony		
Cobalt		
Vanadium		
Iodine	50g per package	250g per wheeled cart
Chlorine	200g per package	1000g per wheeled cart
Fluorine	50g per package	250g per wheeled cart
Bromine	50g per package	250g per wheeled cart
Sulphur	200g per package	1000g per wheeled cart
Flammable Liquid - flash point below 21°C	2.5 litres per package	5 litres per wheeled cart
Flammable Liquid - flash point above 21°C but below 55°C	2.5 litres per package	7.5 litres per wheeled cart
Flammable Liquid - flash point above 55°C	2.5 litres per package	10 litres per wheeled cart

If you believe that your waste may contain any material outside the limits in the table you must contact us to request a technical assessment of your waste.

There are also some types of waste which may have special handling requirements or additional legal requirements for their management. A list of these types of waste is as follows:

- Radioactive waste
- Genetically modified waste
- Controlled drugs waste
- Confidential materials waste
- Animal by-products waste
- Category A pathogen wastes (highly infectious wastes)

If you believe that you may produce healthcare waste containing any of the waste types listed above, you must contact us to request a technical assessment of your waste.

A table describing the typical wastes arising from healthcare activities is below; this table describes the EWC Code, the product and our suggested UN Hazard number and labelling requirements for transport. It is colour coded to reflect the segregation colours. As part of our service we will provide you with consignment documentation including the correct information for your agreed waste types, however you should familiarise yourself with the information in this table:

Sector	Colour code	EWC code	Stericycle Code	Waste Type Description as it appears on the Labels	UN Packing Group	UN Number Displayed
Human Healthcare and Research		18 01 03	HI	Infectious healthcare waste for incineration (18 01 03)	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 04	HG	Non-haz h/care gypsum waste for recovery/ incineration (18 01 04)	None	
		18 01 03	HS	Infectious healthcare sharps - incinerate (18 01 03 - 18 01 09)*	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 03	HA	Infectious healthcare anatomical for incineration (18 01 03)	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 03	HB	Human body parts for incineration (18 01 03)	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 03	HT	Infectious healthcare for alternative treatment (18 01 03)	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 03	HN	Non-medicinal sharps for alternative treatment (18 01 03)	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 04	HL	Non-hazardous healthcare waste (18 01 04)	None	
		18 01 08	HY	Haz healthcare medicines for incineration (18 01 08)	CHECK MSDS	
		18 01 08	HX	Mixed patient rtn & h/care cyto & non-haz medicines - incinerate (18 01 08)	CHECK MSDS	
		18 01 09	HP	Non-haz healthcare medicines to incinerate (18 01 09)	None	
		18 01 03	HM	Infectious h/care metal for treatment & recovery (18 01 03)	6.2	UN 3291
		18 01 06	HC	Hazardous h/care chemicals for recovery / incineration (18 01 06)	CHECK MSDS	
		18 01 07	HD	Non-hazardous h/care chemicals for recovery / incineration (18 01 07)	CHECK MSDS	