

Client Brief 2 – Central HCRW Storage Area (CSA)

INTRODUCTION:

It is essential that every health care facility has at least one dedicated central health care risk waste storage area (CSA), serving as an interface from where the service provider will collect the health care risk waste (HCRW) for off site treatment and disposal.

GUIDELINES:

The central health care risk waste storage area must meet the following requirements:

1. The area must be clearly demarcated and there must be a sign at the entrance to the storage area indicating that this area is a health care risk waste storage area.
2. The CSA must be locked and access controlled at all times, and must not be accessible to unauthorised personnel, animals, rodents and birds.
3. The CSA must have, as a minimum, the following:
 - an impermeable, hard standing floor with good drainage connected to a sewer.
 - a water supply for cleaning and disinfection purposes, as well as a hand basin, hand soap and hand towel. The CSA must be cleaned and disinfected each time the waste is collected.
 - be undercover and provide protection from the elements; i.e. sun, wind and rain.
 - have good lighting and at least passive ventilation.
 - be lockable and secure.
 - be equipped with a fire extinguisher.
4. The storage area must be equipped with the necessary PPE (gumboots, work uniform, elbow length gloves, mask, protective eye goggles) and emergency equipment to deal with spillages.
5. The HCRW storage area must be separate to the health care general waste storage area.
6. The storage area should not be situated in close proximity to the fresh food stores or food preparation area for example, near the hospital kitchen.
7. The storage area should be in a location where there is low public presence/passage.
8. The storage area must provide easy access for the waste collection vehicles.
9. The health care risk waste storage area must have sufficient capacity to accommodate the volume of waste to be stored and be able to make allowances in the event of a sudden increase in the generation of HCRW or alternatively, a temporary breakdown in the HCRW collection.
 - According to the Gauteng Health Care Waste Regulations 2004, all health care facilities in Gauteng must have sufficient capacity to store up to eight days of waste generated at the facility.
 - According to the Health Care Risk Waste Management policy for KZN 2008 the size of the storage area depends on the size of the hospital. For e.g.

a) Regional hospital	20 – 36 m ²
b) District hospital	15 – 24 m ²
c) Community Health Centre	9 – 15 m ²
d) Clinic	5 – 15
10. A Waste Collection Document (WCD) **must be issued** to the hospital on collection of the waste by the authorised service provider. **Never hand over HCRW to an unknown service provider without a WCD.**

GUIDELINES TO THE STORAGE OF CONTAINERS IN THE CSA:

- Only health care risk waste that is correctly packed and labelled must be stored in the CSA. The HCRW containers must be correctly closed (sharps containers) sealed (box sets & plastic bags).
- HCRW containers can be stacked to a maximum height of three boxes or 1.8 meters, whichever is the lowest.
- Sharps containers must be stacked in a configuration that will prevent them from collapsing.
- Wheelie bins may not be stacked.
- High density HCRW such as blood or pathological waste in specibins must not be stacked.
- Ideally, anatomical waste should be stored in a freezer or in the mortuary.
- HCRW containers must always remain in the upright position.
- The different categories of HCRW waste must have specific storage areas allocated to them inside the CSA. For example, do not store sharps containers inside a cardboard box or wheelie bin.



An example of a Central HCRW Storage Area



A bad example of a Central HCRW Storage Area

REFERNCES:

- 1) SANS 10248-1:2008 Management of HCRW from a Health Care Facility
- 2) Gauteng HCW Regulations 2004
- 3) HCRW Management policy for KZN 2008

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APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT AT YOUR FACILITY**