

Client Brief 3 – March 2008 – HCRW generator responsibilities

Dear Health Care Facility Representative

Drivers and Load Assistants – Responsibilities

Our drivers and load assistants have brought it to our attention that certain clients are expecting them to:

1. Collect HCRW (Health Care Risk Waste) from the wards.
2. Assemble fibre-board box sets, and/or close and seal them off when full.
3. Supply tape or cable ties for use in closure of relevant packaging.
4. Close off and cable-tie bags containing HCRW.
5. Collect waste which is not sealed off, containerized or segregated correctly.
6. Collect waste which is not stored away in a suitable and secure central waste storage site.
7. Collect waste which is packaged in the incorrect packaging, or packaging that is purchased from another supplier and of an inferior quality posing a health and safety risk.

Please note that it remains the responsibility of the Health Care Facility (generator of HCRW) to:

1. Collect and internally transport HCRW to a central, temporary waste storage site, meeting the criteria as detailed in SANS 10248.
2. Assemble and use the HCRW products available to them correctly.
3. To purchase necessary tape and cable ties, etc, for use in correct closure of relevant packaging.
4. To close off, securely, containers / packaging containing HCRW, once the designated fill capacity has been reached (fill-line shown on rigid plastic containers, and bags should be filled no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full).
5. To identify, segregate and containerize all HCRW at the point of generation.
6. To only use packaging / containers which meet minimum specifications as dictated by relevant national standards and legislation for this hazardous waste category.

Please respect that our drivers are on a time-sensitive and rigorous collection schedule and that there is a list of hospitals they are required to service on a daily basis. They are responsible, solely, for collecting your correctly containerized HCRW from a central storage site on your premises, and ensuring that relevant documentation is accurately filled in prior to departure. It is imperative that the Health Care Facility adheres to the principles of sound waste management so that the health and safety of our drivers and load assistants is, by same, never compromised.

Communication:

In order for us to provide a better service, we would appreciate, wherever possible, that you, the client, communicate to us by telephone, fax or e-mail, what your waste volumes are. That way we can ensure that we have the right size vehicle to clear your volumes. In this way, you can also advise us of your consumable order requirements.

Transport Levy:

Please can all clients, outside of contracts, place stock and collection orders simultaneously (at the same time), in the best interests of managing their transport levy optimally. By same, all non-contract clients need to, in future, phone in for their collections, due to the newly imposed transport levy.

Reference Documents:

SANS 10248: South African National Standard for Management of Healthcare Risk Waste from a Healthcare Facility

Relevant SANS 10248 excerpts for this brief:**4.2 Waste Management Team**

4.2.1.4 The person responsible for an area or department shall ensure that the healthcare waste is managed in that area.

5. Contractual Commitments

5.3.2 The healthcare facility shall be responsible for the healthcare risk waste from generation to its final disposal in accordance with relevant legislation and regulations, even though a contract was agreed on with a waste management contractor for the treatment and disposal of the waste.

7. Packaging

7.1.3 The waste containers shall be filled in accordance with the relevant legislations and regulations and shall be securely close to prevent spillage of the contents and access by scavengers or vermin.

9.2 Transport of waste within a healthcare facility

9.2.4 The seals on the waste bags shall be intact at the end of transportation.

Etc.

We thank you, in advance, for your co-operation, and assure you our best attention at all times.

Should you have any further queries – please do not hesitate to contact us.

Faithfully,

Nicole Pahl
Clinical Microbiologist
Safety. Quality. 100% Committed.