

## Client Brief 5 – August 2008 – Sanitary Pads & Adult Nappies

### Dear Health Care Facility Representative

In the best interests of clarity, this Client Brief covers the area of Sanitary Pads and Adult Nappies, in particular. Generally, anything that comes into contact with bodily fluids or non-intact or broken skin is considered Healthcare Risk Waste (HCRW)

#### 1. Sanitary Pads – when is it considered HCRW?

Sanitary pads (and condoms, as another example) in the domestic environment are not considered to be HCRW, although sanitary pads stemming from healthcare facilities such as hospitals are considered to be HCRW due to the **concentrations** generated<sup>2</sup>. This can be extended to highly concentrated sanitary pad waste collected by service providers who supply sani-bins to large institutions such as technikons, universities, schools, hostels, office parks, shopping malls, hotels, etc. The volumes generated deem it to be treated as HCRW.

#### 2. Adult Nappies – when is it considered HCRW?

Adult nappies arising from old age homes are to be treated as HCRW as old age homes are categorized as healthcare facilities as well. This can be extended to Special Schools or Homes for the infirm, ill, mentally or physically handicapped, as well, where the volumes generated deem it to be treated as HCRW.

### Relevant definitions and excerpts from the SANS 10248 – 2008 Edition:

“3.1.21

#### healthcare facility

place or site where professional health services are dispensed to human or animal patients or where biological research is carried out, e.g. laboratories, and includes, *inter alia*, hospitals, clinics, laboratories, rehabilitation centres, sick bays, old age homes, free-standing operating theatres, day unites, mobile and stationary clinics, and field stations where biomedical samples are taken

3.1.36.7

#### healthcare risk waste

human and animal anatomical waste, infectious human and animal waste, sharps, chemical waste, pharmaceutical waste and radioactive waste generated by healthcare professionals, healthcare facilities and other non-healthcare professionals, e.g. tattooists and taxidermists

NOTE Healthcare risk waste is a subcategory of hazardous waste.

3.1.36.8

**infectious non-anatomical waste**

waste that contains or is suspected to contain pathogens, bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi in sufficient concentrations or quantities to cause disease in susceptible hosts”

**References:**

1. SANS 10248:2008 South African National Standard for Management of Healthcare Risk Waste from a Healthcare Facility
2. National Waste Management Strategy Implementation South Africa – DEAT Report Number: 12/10/14/3

Faithfully,

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***Safety. Quality. 100% Committed.***