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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Waste Management

Proposed Amendments to the Infectious & Chemotherapeutic Waste Regulations

Environmental Quality Board

April 16, 2013

Background

The purpose of the amendments is to:

- Recognize and promote efficient business practices;
- Provide consistency with Federal and other state programs;
- Provide reasonable management options for medical waste generators; and
- Maintain a high level of protection for public health and the environment.

Background

These proposed amendments to the infectious & chemotherapeutic waste regulations have been developed with the cooperation of the medical industry and those serving the waste management needs of the industry.

Background

The program provided briefings on the proposed amendments to and received letters of support from:

- Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) – September 22, 2011.
- Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee (SBCAC) – December 10, 2012.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Change in terminology from “infectious waste” to “regulated medical waste”
 - Consistent with the federal government and other states.
 - Vehicles no longer need different signs for different jurisdictions.
 - Provides clarity for those generating, transporting, and managing the waste.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Changes in manifest requirements:
 - Eliminates mandated use of a paper manifest system.
 - Allows standard business documentation and electronic tracking systems.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Changes to the on-site storage requirements:
 - Allows generators more time to fill containers before shipping for disposal.
 - Minimizes need to ship partially filled containers.
 - Reduces costs for generators and transporters.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Provides the authorization to ship medical waste through the approved U.S. Postal Service Program.
 - Provides options and flexibility for generators.
 - Allows for an “on demand” shipping process.
 - Leverages existing postal service program already approved in other states.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Provides 4 permits-by-rule for captive waste processing through the use of:
 - Autoclaves;
 - Incineration;
 - Steam; and
 - Disinfectant-based processing of liquid waste.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Provides 3 permits-by-rule that authorize standard operating procedures for:
 - Transfer facilities that temporarily store waste for less than 72 hours;
 - Blood mobiles and visiting nurses; and
 - Aggregation facilities.

In Summary

- Ensures consistency with other states and federal government.
- Simplifies labeling & signage requirements.
- Reduces paperwork and allows flexibility by providing alternatives to the paper manifest system.

In Summary

- Provides 7 permits-by-rule to eliminate permit application processing and approval for routine practices and procedures.
- Provides an alternate transportation option by allowing shipping of medical waste through the approved U.S. Postal Service program.
- Maintains protection for public health and the environment.

Additional Outreach

- Draft & summary of proposed changes were provided to:
 - PA Medical Society
 - PA Dental Association
 - PA Veterinary Medical Association
 - DEP's Citizens' Advisory Council

Additional Outreach

- Outreach to private medical facilities representing each sector of regulated waste generators.
 - Large & Medium-sized Hospitals
 - Large & Medium-sized Physicians' Offices
 - Small Physicians' Offices
 - Dentists' Offices
 - Rural Health & Dental Facilities



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Questions?



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