

## MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN OBJECTS AND REGULATED WASTE

Any sharps found on the sorting deck will immediately be placed into the sharps containers located on the sorting deck and behind the dump station. When they are  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, they will be placed into the red collection pails which are lined with red bags without being opened. These containers are never to be placed in the regular trash. A company specializing in handling this type of waste shall be used.

- Medical waste such as a bag of blood will also be placed into these collection pails. Other types of medical waste that should be placed in the special containers are:
  - liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM);
  - items contaminated with blood or OPIM and which would release these substances in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed;
  - items that are caked with dried blood or OPIM and are capable of releasing these materials during handling;
  - contaminated sharps; and
  - pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or OPIM.

The determination will not be based on the actual volume of blood, but rather on the potential to release blood, (e.g., when compacted in the waste container).

Bandages which are not saturated to the point of releasing blood or OPIM if compressed is not considered as regulated waste. Similarly, discarded feminine hygiene products do not normally meet the criteria for regulated waste as defined by the standard.

The medical waste management company picks up the contents of these pails on a regularly scheduled basis. If the collection pails start to fill up prior to the collection date, the company shall be contacted for a special pickup.

If it is possible to identify the customer from whom the medical waste was received, they will be contacted. In no case shall TSHCL return medical waste in one of its trucks.

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(HLAC 2.3)

## **Note: Environmental Regulations**

Kentucky does not have specific environmental regulations applicable to medical/infectious wastes generated at healthcare facilities except for air quality regulations pertaining to medical waste incineration. The [Division for Air Quality](#) requires that all medical waste incinerators obtain a special permit prior to conducting medical waste incineration.

## **HealthCare Regulations**

Kentucky hospital regulations cover certain aspects of medical waste, as follows:

- "A sharp waste container shall be incinerated on or off site, or shall be rendered nonhazardous." (Hospital Operations and Services Regulation 902 KAR 20:016 Section 3(10) (g) 3).
- "The containers of sharp wastes shall either be incinerated on or off site, or be rendered nonhazardous by a technology of equal or superior efficacy, which is

approved by both the Cabinet for Human Resources and the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet." Nursing Facility Operations and Services Regulation 902 KAR 20:300 Section 6 (7) (b) 4 C.