

# Disposal of Biomedical Waste

## ACCEPTABLE INDUSTRY PRACTICES

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Biomedical waste is not regulated as a hazardous waste in Alberta, but is a class 6.2 dangerous good under the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

Copies of Alberta's Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice are available from the Queen's Printer at [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca).

For more information call the Information Centre at 780-427-2700 (outside Edmonton dial 310-0000)

This document describes Acceptable Industry Practices (AIP) for the management of biomedical waste in a manner consistent with the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment (CCME) Guidelines for the Management of Biomedical Wastes in Canada available at [www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/pn\\_1060\\_e.pdf](http://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/pn_1060_e.pdf) and approvals issued by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development for specific facilities.

### Legislation

"Biomedical waste" means waste that is generated by:

- (i) Human health care facilities,
- (ii) Medical research and teaching establishments,
- (iii) Clinical testing or research laboratories, and
- (iv) Facilities involved in the production or testing of vaccines,

And contains or may contain pathogenic agents that may cause disease in humans exposed to the waste.

NOTE: Pathogenic waste from animal health care facilities including veterinary clinics should be disposed in accordance with this AIP.

### Alberta Health

Collection and segregation of biomedical wastes at the place of generation are carried out in accordance with waste management procedures outlined in regional infection control procedures developed by the institution responsible for the waste and in compliance with the requirements of the Alberta Health Services.

### Alberta Employment and Immigration

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code applies to all employers to ensure workplace safety. Part 4 of the OHS.

### Transport Canada

Biomedical waste is an infectious substance and is a Class 6.2 dangerous good according to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDG regulations are available at [www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-menu-497.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-menu-497.htm)).

The off-site transportation of biomedical waste for treatment or disposal must be in compliance with the TDG Regulations. For more detail please contact the Prairie and Northern Region TDGR office, toll free, at 1- 888-463-0521.

### Management Options

#### Incineration

Incineration at approved facilities is the preferred method for management of biomedical waste. Incineration has traditionally been the principal method to destroy anatomical and non-anatomical biomedical wastes.

#### Landfill Disposal

Sharps and other solid biomedical waste directed to landfills must be rendered non-pathogenic by chemical or thermal on-site sterilization processes prior to landfill disposal.

Acceptance of this waste at the local municipal Class II landfill requires prior permission by the landfill owner.