

Disposal of Biomedical Waste

Acceptable Industry Practices

Overview

This document describes the 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](#) and approvals issued by Alberta Environment and Parks for specific facilities.

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 Good Regulations.

Legislation

“Biomedical waste” means waste that is generated by:

- Human health care facilities;
- Medical research and teaching establishments;
- Clinical testing or research laboratories; and
- Facilities involved in the production or testing of vaccines.

Biomedical waste may contain pathogenic agents that may cause disease in humans exposed to the waste. 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. For more information see Part 4 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Transport Canada

Biomedical waste is an infectious substance and is a Class 6.2 dangerous good according to the [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations](#), and the off-site transportation of biomedical waste for treatment or disposal must be in compliance with this regulation. For more detail please contact the Prairie and Northern Region TDGR office at 1-888-463-0521.

Management Options

Incineration

Incineration at approved facilities is the preferred method for the 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 nonpathogenic by chemical or thermal onsite sterilization processes prior to landfill disposal. Acceptance of this waste at the local municipal Class II landfill requires prior permission by the landfill owner.