

# Regulated Medical Waste Acceptance Policy

This document describes the types of waste that can be managed by Stericycle's Regulated Waste Compliance Solutions (RWCS) division and the required packaging. The criteria listed in the document are based on the standards and regulations currently in force in Canada. **Stericycle reserves the right of refusal to collect and manage any waste that does not fully meet the criteria described in the following pages. Nonconforming waste and noncompliant packaging may cause material damage to our equipment and increases risk to Stericycle employees and our right to operate. To account for this, nonconforming wastes and noncompliant packaging may result in additional costs to the waste generator.** For more information, please contact your Stericycle representative or email [customercare@stericycle.com](mailto:customercare@stericycle.com)

## TYPES OF WASTE

The RWCS division accepts the following waste:

- **Biomedical Waste** (ref.: applicable Provincial Regulations and guidelines; and CSA standard Z317.10-15 – Handling of health care waste materials)
  - Human anatomical
    - body parts or organs
  - Animal anatomical
    - carcasses, body parts or organs
  - Non-Anatomical
    - biological tissue, cell culture, microbial culture, or material in contact with such tissue or culture
    - live vaccine
    - a blood container or material that has been saturated with blood
  - Non-Anatomical – Sharps
    - a sharp or breakable object having been in contact with blood or with a biological liquid or tissue
- **Cytotoxic Medical Waste**
  - Biomedical waste as described above, but that has also been in contact with cytotoxic agents, including empty or used vials of cytotoxic medications, and any other material contaminated by residual cytotoxic agents.
- **Pharmaceutical Waste**
  - Therapeutic medications and chemicals that are no longer usable, that are outdated or contaminated, that have been improperly stored or that are no longer required.
  - Narcotic medications and precursor chemicals (undenatured) and unused cytotoxic medications are not accepted in this category. They are managed separately (see below).

**NOTE:** Biomedical waste containing Category B infectious substances (ref.: Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, section 2.36.1) are acceptable. However, waste containing Category A infectious substances **must be preapproved**.

The following materials are not acceptable with the above-indicated waste:

- Batteries
- Solvents (formaldehyde, etc.)
- Narcotics (undenatured)
- Radioactive materials
- Hazardous waste (e.g., aerosols) – (ref.: Regulation respecting hazardous materials, section 3)

*Paraffin blocks are not normally considered to be biomedical waste and must not be identified as such. Stericycle nevertheless offers a safe destruction method for paraffin blocks. It is important that the client contact Stericycle to make the necessary arrangements.*

## WASTE SEGREGATION AND PACKAGING

All waste must be *segregated by category* (see above) as soon as it is generated and be *packaged separately in packaging that meets the current standards, including the required labelling*.

Several standards and requirements apply:

- Provincial Regulations
- Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation, section 1.42.3
- CSA standard Z317.10 – Handling of health care waste materials, Table 1
- Standard CGSB-43.125 – Packaging of Category A and Category B Infectious Substances (Class 6.2) and Clinical, (Bio)Medical or Regulated Medical Waste, Part III

The requirements are summarized below (and the relevant sections of the standards and regulations are provided in an appendix):

- Packaging must be **rigid, sealed and leakproof**, and be **puncture resistant** if for sharps waste.
  - It must meet the requirements of CGSB-43.125, Part III
  - It must be of sufficient quality to **remain rigid, sealed and leakproof** when collected, during transportation (refrigerated for biomedical waste) and up to waste treatment.
- **Colour-Coded Packaging** – For packaging requiring a plastic bag, the bag must be of the right colour. For other packaging, part of the packaging must be identified with the colour code (either the container itself or its labelling).
  - Anatomical waste: **Red**
  - Non-anatomical waste and sharps: **Yellow**
  - Cytotoxic waste: **Red**
  - Pharmaceutical waste: **White and Blue**

The following labels are recommended as they are colour-coded as required



### • Labelling – Biomedical Waste

- **QUEBEC ONLY:** All biomedical waste packaging must be identified with a label in compliance with Schedule III of the Regulation respecting biomedical waste. The label must be at least 20 cm by 20 cm. The required information (category of waste and generator of waste) must be completed by the generator prior to collection.

	<b>BIOMEDICAL WASTE</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF WASTE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1- HUMAN ANATOMICAL WASTE <input type="checkbox"/> 2- ANIMAL ANATOMICAL WASTE <input type="checkbox"/> 3- NON-ANATOMICAL WASTE <input type="checkbox"/> SHARPS OBJECTS	
<b>GENERATOR</b>	
NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT OR FIRM NAME: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	
PERSON IN CHARGE: _____	
TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON IN CHARGE: _____	

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  - Anatomical waste:
  - Non-anatomical waste and sharps:
  - Cytotoxic waste:
  - Pharmaceutical waste:

The following labels are recommended as they are colour-coded as required

- Drums/containers greater than 50L must be pre-approved by Stericycle and may be subject to a surcharge due to special handling and disposal site.
- Steel drums, or any containers with steel, are not acceptable for biomedical waste.
- Liquid medical waste must either be solidified prior to being collected by Stericycle or be limited to a total of 5L per container.
- Liquid pharmaceutical waste in excess of 20L must be pre-approved by Stericycle and may require proof of classification before being accepted.

## Z317.10 – 15 Handling of Healthcare Waste

**Table 1**  
Colour coding and/or labelling requirements  
(See Clauses 4.2, 4.7, 5.2, 9.6.1, and 10.2.2 and Annex E.)

Waste category	Waste sub-category	Colour coding and/or labelling
Biomedical anatomic waste	Human anatomic	RED and recognized symbol
	Animal anatomic	RED and recognized symbol
Biomedical non-anatomic waste		YELLOW and recognized symbol
Biomedical sharps (contaminated)		YELLOW and recognized symbol
Biomedical waste contaminated with cytotoxic waste (including sharps)		RED and recognized symbol
Pharmaceutical waste	Pharmaceuticals excluding cytotoxic pharmaceuticals	Recognized coding within facility or province/territory
	Cytotoxic pharmaceuticals	Cytotoxic hazard symbol on RED background

# APPENDIX

## APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS



Transports Canada / Transport Canada

### Quebec Regulations Respecting Biomedical Waste

- “22. Biomedical waste destined for shipment from its generation site shall be put into rigid, sealed, airtight containers, which shall be perforation resistant if they contain biomedical waste referred to in subparagraph a of paragraph 3 of section 1.  
The biomedical waste shall be kept refrigerated at less than 4°C.”
- “23. An identification label conforming to Schedule III shall be duly filled out and affixed by the shipper to the outside of each biomedical waste container.  
The label shall measure at least 20 cm by 20 cm.”
- “32. The operator of a facility that treats or stores biomedical waste shall refuse delivery of biomedical waste if the conditions provided for in sections 10, 22 and 23 have not been complied with.”

### Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulations

#### 1.42.3 Medical or Clinical Waste

Part 3 (Documentation), sections 4.10 to 4.12 of Part 4 (Dangerous Goods Safety Marks), Part 5 (Means of Containment), Part 6 (Training), Part 7 (Emergency Response Assistance Plan) and Part 8 (Reporting Requirements) do not apply to the offering for transport, handling, or transporting of dangerous goods that are medical waste or clinical waste if:

- (a) the dangerous goods are UN3291, (BIO) MEDICAL WASTE, N.O.S.;
- (b) the dangerous goods are in a means of containment that is in compliance with CGSB-43.125; and
- (c) the following information is displayed on the means of containment:
  - (i) the biohazard symbol; and
  - (ii) the word “BIOHAZARD” or “BIORISQUE”.





### CAN/CGSB-43.125-2016 Packaging of Category A and Category B infectious Substances (Class 6.2) and clinical, (bio) medical or regulated medical waste

Part III and relevant sections

A) UN standardized small container for packing group I of II, for liquids of solids listed in Table 3. If the container is not leakproof, a plastic bag meeting the requirements of Table 5 shall be inserted in the container to contain any possible release of liquids.

The small containers associated to the UN packaging code listed in Table 3 shall be UN standardized containers that meet the requirements applicable to this type of container as set out in TP 14850 or the UN Recommendations and the Regulations of the country of origin, as the case may be, and are marked accordingly.

**Table 3**  
Selected packaging codes for UN standardized small containers

Type	Material	Category	Packaging code
1. Drums	A. Steel	Non-removeable head	1A1
		Removeable head	1A2
	B. Aluminum	Non-removeable head	1B1
		Removeable head	1B2
	D. Plywood		1D
	G. Fibre		1G
	H. Plastic	Non-removeable head	1H1
		Removeable head	1H2
	N. Metal, other than steel or aluminum	Non-removeable head	1N1
		Removeable head	1N2
3. Jerricans	A. Steel	Non-removeable head	3A1
		Removeable head	3A2
	B. Aluminum	Non-removeable head	3B1
		Removeable head	3B2
	H. Plastic	Non-removeable head	3H1
		Removeable head	3H2

Type	Material	Category	Packaging code
4. Boxes	A. Steel		4A
	B. Aluminum		4B
	C. Natural Wood	Ordinary	4C1
		With sift-proof walls	4C2
	D. Plywood		4D
	F. Reconstituted wood		4F
	G. Fibreboard		4G
	H. Plastic	Expanded	4H1
		Solid	4H2
N. Metal, other than steel or aluminum		4N	

D) a non-standardized combination packaging consisting of a securely-closed plastic bag that meets the requirements of Table 5 and is contained in a securely closed outer packaging that is:

- 1) rigid, leakproof and designed for repeated use; or
- 2) a fibreboard box that meets the requirements of columns 1, 2 and 3 or columns 1, 2 and 4 of Table 6.

E) a Type P620 packaging

### 12.4 Sharp Objects

Packaging intended to contain sharp objects such as broken glass and needles shall:

- A) meet the requirements of CSA Z316.6, or
- B) be rigid, leakproof, puncture resistant and designed for repeated use.

**Table 5- Plastic Bag**

Test	Test Standard	Nominal Value
Elmendorf tear strength	ASTM D1922	480 g MD <sup>a</sup>
		480 g TD <sup>b</sup>
Dart impact strength	ASTM D1709	165 g

<sup>a</sup> MD= Machine Direction  
<sup>b</sup> TD= Transverse Direction

**Table 6- Fibreboard Box**

Type of fibreboard	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	Maximum weight of box and contents kg (lb)	Maximum outside dimensions L+W+H cm (in)	Minimum bursting strength <sup>a</sup> kPa (lb/in <sup>2</sup> )	Minimum edge crush <sup>b</sup> test (ECT) kN/m (lb/in)
Singlewall	16 (35)	190 (75)	1380 (200)	5.6 (32)
	23 (50)	216 (85)	1720 (250)	7.0 (40)
	30 (65)	241 (95)	1900 (275)	7.7 (44)
	30 (65)	267 (105)	2410 (350)	9.6 (55)
Doublewall	30 (65)	216 (85)	1380 (200)	7.4 (42)
	30 (65)	241 (95)	1900 (275)	8.4 (48)
	30 (65)	267 (105)	2410 (350)	8.9 (51)

<sup>a</sup> The minimum bursting strength test shall be conducted in accordance with TAPPI T810.  
<sup>b</sup> The edge crush test (ECT) shall be conducted in accordance with TAPPI T811 or TAPPI T839.