



# Amendments to the Medical Waste Management Act



## Purpose for revision

A consensus was reached between stakeholders and CDPH on addressing state and federal laws and the implementation of federal and state law regarding the transport of regulated medical waste.



# **MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT**

**JANUARY 2016**

**CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
SECTIONS 117600 - 118360**



## Several Changes

Included but not limited to:

Codifying federal requirements

Modifying definitions

Creating procedures for the generation of medical waste for a temporary event



## Revised definitions:

Single revised definition of “medical waste” to include: biohazardous waste, pathology waste, pharmaceutical waste, sharps waste, trace chemotherapy waste, and trauma scene waste. *HSC§117690*



## Revised definitions:

The definition of "biohazard bag" to specify color coding for the purpose of further segregating waste. *HSC§117630*

The definition of "highly communicable diseases" to update categorization to reference the appropriate Centers for Disease Control and Prevention risk group 3 or higher. *HSC§117665*

The definition of "medical waste treatment facility" to specify over which land is under the control of the facility. *HSC§117725*

The definition of "pharmaceutical" to reference the Department of Toxic Substances Control's authority over hazardous waste. *HSC§117747*

The definition of "sharps container" to specify that trace chemotherapeutic wastes shall not be lined with a plastic bag or liner. *HSC§117750*

The definition of "transfer station" to clarify defined locations are permitted by CDPH. *HSC§117775*



## MWMA Amendments

- Requires generators that treat medical waste to include additional information in the medical waste management plan, including:
  - a) Steps taken to categorize generated pharmaceutical waste and how those wastes are disposed. *HSC§117935 and 117960*
  - b) A closure plan for the termination of the treatment facility. *HSC§117935 and 117960*
- Requires registered medical waste generators to additionally provide to LEA shipping documents of all untreated medical waste shipped offsite. *HSC§117935 and 117960*



## MWMA Amendments

- No longer requires medical waste generators to apply for a limited quantity hauling exemption.
- Now authorizes generators to transport up to 35.2 pounds of medical waste to the central location of accumulation as long as specific conditions are met, including that the transport is in accordance with the requirements of the US DOT “Materials of Trade Exception”, and the person transporting medical waste provides a log to the receiving facility with specified information. *HSC§117976*



## MWMA Amendments

- Requires medical waste generators to update their plan within 30 days from any relevant changes, and requires the plan be maintained on file for review. *HSC§117940*
- Clarifies further that "medical waste" does not include waste generated in biotechnology that does not contain a highly communicable disease. *HSC§117700*



## MWMA Amendments

- Authorizes registered LQGs and SQGs to generate medical waste at temporary events without further registration or permitting. As long as they notify the local enforcement agency event at least 72 hours before the event, unless the sponsor of the temporary event previously notified the local enforcement agency.  
*HSC§117980 and 117895*
- Temporary event registration is completed through the County of San Diego, Accela Citizen Access Portal.

[Event Registration](#)



## MWMA Amendments

Requires generators of medical waste to initially and annually train operators of onsite sterilization equipment that complies with federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and records of training to be maintained for **two** years. *HSC§117938 and 117967*



## MWMA Amendments

- Requires medical waste transported out of state to be consigned to a permitted medical waste treatment facility out of state and refers to state law for treating medical waste crossing an international border.

*HSC§118000*



## MWMA Amendments

- Requires a person applying for a permit for an offsite medical waste treatment facility to additionally include information regarding a plan for closure describing decontamination methods. *HSC§118155*
- Clarifies that heat sensitive tape or another acceptable method only need to be placed on liner bags when biohazard bags or sharps containers are contained in a larger lined bag for autoclave treatment. *HSC§118215*



## MWMA Amendments

- Requires human anatomical parts, excluding teeth, to be disposed of by interment, incineration, or appropriate alternative treatment technologies. *HSC§118220*
- Specifies that the containerization and storage requirements currently in the MWMA only apply at the point of generation and when the waste is collected in the room. *HSC§118275*
- Specifies additional labeling and containerization requirements. *HSC§118275*



## MWMA Amendments

- Revises the usage of biohazardous bags in certain health care settings, establish weight limits for medical waste placed in biohazardous bags at three pounds or one gallon, and changes the biohazardous waste storage requirements at transfer stations.

*HSC§118280*

# Examples of Biohazardous Wastes Film Storage Bags

White: Pathology Waste

Yellow: Trace Chemo

Red: Biohazardous Waste

Black: Solid Waste

Closed sharps containers may be stored in a bag.

*(HSC§118275(a)(1))*

May Use White Bag with “Pathology Waste” or “PATH” label *(HSC§117630)*

May be stored in bags with international biohazard symbol and the word “BIOHAZARD” or the words “BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE”





## MWMA Amendments

- Requires a solid waste transporter who discovers that he or she has (unknowingly) hauled untreated medical waste to a landfill or materials recovery facility to contact the originating generator of the medical waste to respond to the landfill or recovery facility to provide ultimate proper disposal of the medical waste. *HSC§118027*
- Authorizes solid waste facility operators to arrange for proper treatment and disposal of erroneously disposed medical waste at a solid waste facility. *HSC§118027*



## MWMA Amendments

- Clarifies that the statutory requirements for treatment of carcasses of animals that die of infectious diseases includes those that are euthanized because they are suspected of having been exposed to an infectious disease. *HSC§118240*



## Medical Waste Management Program

To protect the public and the environment from potentially infectious disease causing agents, the Medical Waste Management Program (Program), in the [Environmental Management](#) handling, storage, treatment, and disposal of medical waste by providing oversight for the implementation of the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA). The MWMP permits a facilities and medical waste transfer stations. In addition to the treatment methods specifically allowed in the MWMA, there are alternative medical waste treatment technologies

Additionally, the MWMP acts as the local enforcement agency in a number of local jurisdictions that elected to have the State implement the large quantity generator inspection p

### News, Hot Topics & Updates

- [AB333 Legislative Report FINAL \(PDF\)](#)  New
- [Acupuncturists](#)
- [Ebola Guidance Document \(PDF\)](#)
- [How to Dispose of Controlled Substances](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Waste Vs Hazardous Waste](#)
- [SB 225 Letter \(PDF\)](#)
- [Small Quantity Generator Fee](#)

### General Information

- [Alternative Treatment Technologies](#)
- [Home Generated Medical Waste](#)
- [Hospital Pollution Prevention Program](#)
- [Local Enforcement Agencies \(LEAs\)](#)
- [Reusable Container Systems](#)

### Program Information

- [Contact Program](#)
- [Generators](#)
- [Transfer Stations and Offsite Treatment Facilities](#)
- [Transporters](#)
- [Trauma Scene Waste Management Practitioners](#)

### Laws, Regs and Standards

- [Blood Borne Pathogens \(PDF\)](#)
- [Medical Waste Management Act \(MWMA\)\(PDF\)](#)  Updated
- [Permitting/Title 22 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Self-Assessment Manual \(PDF\)](#)
- [AB 333 \(PDF\)](#)
- [SB 225 \(PDF\)](#)

[CDPH Medical Waste Program](#)

[San Diego County MW](#)



Until the next revision.....