



COVID-19 Waste Management Standard Operating Procedure

28th April 2020, Version 1

This SOP sets out the waste management approach for all HSE hospitals and healthcare facilities (existing and temporary: testing centres, assessments hubs, step down facilities/field hospitals, self-isolation accommodations etc.) during the COVID-19 emergency response. A pragmatic approach will be implemented to ensure that waste is managed in a safe manner.

What does this mean for healthcare staff?

In summary, infectious COVID-19 healthcare risk waste is treated as regular **Category B infectious waste** in accordance with the national **Healthcare Risk Waste Mgt: Segregation Packaging and Storage Guidelines for Healthcare Risk Waste 2010**.

Waste arising from **possible or confirmed COVID-19 cases** are designated as infectious clinical waste (EWC code 18-01-03* whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection). Segregate all waste from patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 as healthcare risk waste. Hands free (pedal operated) healthcare risk waste bins should be provided in isolation rooms and cohort areas.

Healthcare Risk Waste must be packaged into **UN-approved yellow bags** (in large yellow pedal bins) in accordance with the safe management of healthcare risk waste. Sharps, pharmaceutical, anatomical (excluded risk) waste should continue to be segregated into **UN-approved yellow rigid containers** with an appropriately coloured lid, and should not enter the UN-approved yellow bag stream.

- All those handling healthcare waste should wear appropriate PPE, and clean their hands after removing PPE. Once bagged, healthcare risk waste must be put into **UN-approved yellow wheelie bins** awaiting collection, treatment and energy recovery.
- External surfaces of waste containers/wheelie bins do not need to be disinfected. Please ensure that yellow wheelie bins are full for collection to prevent a wheelie bin shortage. When transporting UN-approved yellow wheelie bins **Stericycle drivers wear disposable gloves**, which are disposed of after each collection/location.
- All confidential waste must be put into confidential bins. **Confidential waste** from isolation wards should be stored for 72 hours prior to collection/shredding on site.
- **Non healthcare risk waste** (i.e. commercial/domestic) should be collected by the regular non-hazardous waste contractor for recycling and energy recovery. All food waste must be disposed of in compostable brown bags/bins/wheelie bins.
- All outer procurement packaging on equipment and products should be removed and recycled before an item is taken onto any ward or clinical area. *If this packaging is taken into an isolation or higher risk area, then it is likely to become contaminated and therefore must be disposed as Category B infectious clinical waste.*
- Clinical staff caring for people who are self-isolating in their own home are to leave their PPE behind in a bag, placed in a second plastic bag and stored in a secure location for 72 hours, before being put into their domestic waste stream. Relatives caring for people who are self-isolating are advised to follow the same guidelines.

HSE Supplier Details

UN Approved (Single Use) Yellow Healthcare Risk Waste Bags/Sharps Bins/Containers & Cable Ties

HSE Procurement Project ID	Product Description	Award Supplier	End Date
11729	Healthcare Risk Waste Bags	Bunzl Irish Merchants	01/01/2020
11731	Sharps Bins & Risk Waste Containers	Patron Distribution	01/01/2020
2734	Printed cable ties for risk waste bags & containers	Patron Distribution	11/04/2021

Email procurement.support@hse.ie for HSE Procurement contract user guides and Supplier contact details.

Internal (Reusable) Waste Pedal Bins

National HSE Framework Agreement for Internal (reusable) Waste bins/Containers in Healthcare settings (Ref HSE 11254).

TALTECH	LOT 3 Pedal Bins	BIN WASTE, YELLOW (RISK WASTE), LARGE SILENT CLOSING. 70LTR	TALTECH	LOT 4 Pedal Bins with liners	BIN WASTE, YELLOW, (RISK WASTE), LARGE SILENT CLOSING WITH GALVANISED LINER WITH HANDLES, 70LTR
TALTECH	LOT 3 Pedal Bins	BIN WASTE, YELLOW (RISK WASTE), MEDIUM, SILENT CLOSING. 50LTR	TALTECH	LOT 4 Pedal Bins with liners	BIN WASTE, YELLOW, (RISK WASTE), MEDIUM, SILENT CLOSING WITH GALVANISED LINER WITH HANDLES. 50LTR
TALTECH	LOT 3 Pedal Bins	BIN WASTE, YELLOW (RISK WASTE), SMALL, SILENT CLOSING. 20LTR	TALTECH	LOT 4 Pedal Bins with liners	BIN WASTE, YELLOW, (RISK WASTE), SMALL, SILENT CLOSING, WITH GALVANISED LINER WITH HANDLES. 20LTR

Email HSE procurement.support@hse.ie for HSE Procurement contract user guide and Supplier details.

Healthcare Risk Waste Collection Services

Stericycle Ltd.
www.stericycle.ie

Key Contact: Fiona Dowling General Manager
Telephone: 087 9113324

Email HSE procurement.support@hse.ie for HSE Procurement contract user guide.

References;

1. Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) Interim Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting V1.0 8 April 2020.
2. Interim Public Health and Infection Prevention Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities and Similar Units V4. 22/04/20
3. Dept of Health and HSE's national Healthcare Risk Waste Mgt: Segregation Packaging and Storage Guidelines for Healthcare Risk Waste 2010.