

Transporters of Infectious Waste

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of Ohio's infectious waste regulations applicable to transporters of infectious waste.

APPLICABILITY

Any person who intends to transport infectious wastes generated at premises registered with Ohio EPA must obtain an infectious waste transporter registration certificate. In addition, out of state shipments terminating in Ohio may only be transported by registered infectious waste transporters. Vehicles categorized as 1) an emergency vehicle, 2) a public safety vehicle, 3) a bloodmobile, 4) a mobile health unit whose primary function is the provision of health care, diagnosis, or treatment, or 5) a home health care vehicle, are not required to be registered as an infectious waste transporter. The scope of the infectious waste regulations includes waste segregation, packaging, storage, shipping, and treatment of infectious wastes generated or disposed of in Ohio.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Registration Certificate

Initial Registration: Any person who transports infectious waste must register with Ohio EPA. To register, complete and mail the "Infectious Waste Transporter Registration Certificate Application" form to the address indicated on the form, along with \$300.00 per vehicle. The certificate is valid for three years. Registered infectious waste generators are exempt from fee payment when registering vehicles that are used to transport infectious waste generated at premises owned or operated by the generator.

Along with a certificate, decals will be issued for

each vehicle listed on the certificate. The transporter must permanently affix the decal to the outside of the driver's side door of the corresponding motor vehicle. In addition, each registered vehicle must also display the international biohazard symbol (not supplied by Ohio EPA) on the left and right sides and rear of the truck or trailer, and at all points of access.

Renewing registration certificates: Ohio EPA will send a renewal notification and application form approximately two months before the transporter certificate expires. Transporters are required to submit the renewal application at least 30 days before the current certificate expires.

Amending registration certificates: If there is an increase or decrease in the number of fleet vehicles or a vehicle is replaced, the transporter must complete and mail the "Amended Infectious Waste Transporter Registration Certificate Application". If the number of vehicles in the fleet increases, the amended registration application must be accompanied by a prorated fee based on the time remaining in the registration cycle. If the number of vehicles in the fleet decreases, no refund will be issued. Registered transporters must apply for an amended registration certificate at least thirty days before utilizing an unregistered vehicle.

Emergency Registration Certificate: The emergency registration certificate is valid for 30 days and may only be obtained by currently registered transporters who experience a vehicle breakdown, are acting in response to a treatment facility closure and/or activation of a contingency plan, or need additional vehicles to respond to a public health emergency. Complete the "Emergency Infectious Waste Transporter Registration Certificate Application

Transporters of Infectious Waste

Form” and fax it to Ohio EPA’s Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management (DSIWM) at (614) 728-5315. The fee for an emergency registration certificate is \$300.00 per vehicle and must be received by Ohio EPA within three days of receipt of the application. Ohio EPA will fax a copy of the emergency certificate which must be displayed in the vehicle until the original emergency registration certificate is received. The transporter has 30 days to submit an amended registration certificate application to permanently add the vehicle to the fleet of registered vehicles.

Obtaining forms: Contact the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management (DSIWM) at (614) 644-2621, or visit this website: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm/pages/iw_do_cs.html#s.

Packaging, Handling, and Storage of Infectious Waste

Infectious waste must be transported in shipments consisting only of untreated infectious waste and may not be transported in shipments that contain solid waste, hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or treated infectious waste. Infectious waste may not be accepted for transport if it has not been properly packaged and labeled. The packaging and labeling of infectious waste are not the responsibilities of the transporter but of the generator. However, the following guidelines have been included here to alert transporters on what grounds they should refuse to transport infectious waste.

Packaging requirements: Infectious waste must be placed in red plastic bags manufactured for infectious waste disposal, or in bags labeled with an international biohazard symbol that is at least 5 inches in diameter and that must be:

- Impervious to moisture
- Constructed of a single thickness to prevent ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal handling conditions

- Able to hold 25 pounds of water while being carried from its top, for 60 seconds without leakage
- Securely tied or sealed to prevent leakage or spillage of wastes during storage, handling, or transport

All infectious sharps must be in containers specifically designed and manufactured for the management and/or disposal of sharps. The container must be labeled with the international biohazard symbol.

Bags of infectious waste transported to an infectious waste treatment facility must be:

- Placed inside a second sealed bag of the same criteria; or
- Be placed inside of a fully enclosed, sturdy container

If containers are used they must be:

- Disposable (cardboard) or reusable
- Labeled with the international biohazard symbol on at least two opposite sides
- In good repair, clean on the outside, leak resistant, and able to withstand handling

Reusable containers must be disinfected between uses with a detergent and disinfectant. The disinfectant must be an US EPA registered tuberculocidal. A 10% vol/vol of household bleach may be used instead of the registered hospital disinfectant.

Handling and storage requirements:

Transporters are allowed fourteen-days to deliver infectious wastes from the generator to the treatment facility and ten days to deliver infectious wastes from one treatment facility to another treatment facility. Infectious waste may be stored within the vehicle or trailer equipped to contain any spillage of infectious waste or liquids, or at a transfer facility that is registered with Ohio EPA. Infectious waste must not be ground or compacted and must be properly secured to prevent spillage.

Packaged infectious wastes must be handled and stored in a manner that:

Transporters of Infectious Waste

- Maintains the integrity of the packaging
- Maintains the infectious wastes in a non-putrescent state using refrigeration or freezing when necessary
- Maintains max temperature of 46°F or 8°C, if wastes are stored in trucks/trailers greater than 36 hours
- Protects infectious waste from becoming a food source or breeding ground to animals or insects

Trucks and/or trailers and outside storage areas must be locked to prevent unauthorized access. Entrance to unlocked storage areas must be marked with a sign that states "warning: infectious waste" and/or displays the international biohazard symbol or lock the storage area.

Infectious Waste Spills

Any surface of a vehicle that comes in contact with infectious wastes must be disinfected with a surface disinfectant that is an U.S. EPA Registered hospital disinfectant that is also tuberculocidal (follow the manufacturer's directions), or materials necessary to prepare a minimum 10% sodium hypochlorite solution with a minimum contact time of 30 minutes. All fluids resulting from the disinfection procedure may be discharged into a sanitary sewer system. Any materials utilized for wiping or absorbing infectious waste during the disinfection process must be treated as infectious waste and managed accordingly.

A spill that occurs outside of the vehicle, trailer, or compartment must be reported to Ohio EPA within 48 hours of its occurrence, using the "Infectious Waste Spill and Accident Report" form. A copy of the filed report must be retained by the transporter for a minimum of three years.

Transporters must carry and maintain a spill containment and clean-up kit in a readily accessible area. The kit must contain the following items:

- Materials designed to absorb spilled liquids
- Red or biohazard labeled bag(s)
- An U.S. EPA Registered hospital disinfectant that is also tuberculocidal (follow manufacturer's directions), or materials necessary to prepare a 10% household bleach solution with a minimum contact time of 30 minutes
- Disposable gloves and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- A first aid kit, fire extinguisher, boundary tape, and other appropriate safety equipment

Transporters of infectious waste must be trained in the implementation of spill containment and clean-up procedures and must implement them in the following manner:

- Have the clean-up personnel utilize the appropriate PPE
- Limit the access of the spill area to authorized personnel
- Place any broken containers and spilled materials in the appropriate infectious waste containers
- Use absorbent materials to collect any spilled liquids. The absorbent material shall be managed as infectious waste
- After all materials have been picked up, clean the contaminated area
- After cleaning, disinfect the spill area
- Clean and disinfect any non-disposable items
- Remove PPE and manage the disposable items as an infectious waste
- Call for emergency help as needed from the fire department, the police department, the local health department, any existing local emergency management office, or the Ohio EPA

A copy of the procedure must be in a readily accessible area.

Shipping Papers

Shipping papers are used to document the acceptance and treatment of infectious waste

Transporters of Infectious Waste

by a treatment facility. It is the responsibility of both the generator and the transporter to use the infectious waste treatment shipping papers.

A treatment shipping paper must accompany all shipments of untreated infectious waste to an infectious waste treatment facility that is not owned or operated by the generator. The treatment shipping paper is a four page multi-colored carbonless form consisting of:

1. white top page which is returned to the generator by the treatment facility
2. yellow second page which is kept on file by the treatment facility
3. pink third page which is kept in the transporter's file
4. gold bottom page which is retained in the generator's file

Shipping papers must be legible, complete, retained on file for at least three years, and be signed and dated by the generator then given to the transporter before the wastes are removed. At a minimum, shipping papers must contain space for the following information:

- Name, registration number, vehicle decal number, address, telephone number and dated signature of each transporter
- Generator's name, registration number, address, telephone number and dated signature
- Generator's certification statement
- Description of waste
- Type and quantity of containers (may also include weight of containers)
- Designated treatment facility and alternate treatment facility name, address, telephone number, and dated signature
- Treatment certification statement
- Discrepancy section
- Other

The original shipping paper must be returned to the generator within 45 days of treatment of the

waste at a treatment facility. If the shipping paper is not returned, then a legible copy of the original shipping paper and a brief letter outlining the generator's efforts to locate the waste must be submitted to the health department having jurisdiction and to Ohio EPA.

Treated Infectious Waste: Once infectious waste has been treated to render it noninfectious, it may be disposed as solid waste. It is not necessary to use a registered transporter when disposing of a load of treated infectious waste. A disposal shipping paper must accompany the load of treated infectious waste to the landfill. The disposal shipping paper is a three-part form with one copy retained by the waste generator, one copy retained by the landfill, and one copy returned to the generator by the landfill.

Miscellaneous

A registered transporter is liable for the safe delivery of any infectious waste from the time the waste is obtained until the waste is delivered to a treatment facility. Transporters must also meet all applicable federal motor carrier safety regulations under 49 C.F.R.

APPLICABLE RULES

OAC	3745-27-01	3745-27-32	3745-27-35
	3745-27-30	3745-27-33	3745-27-36
	3745-27-31	3745-27-34	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Infectious Waste Unit (614) 644-2621
PO Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216

DSIWM Supervisors:

Central District Office	(614) 728-3778
Northeast District Office	(330) 963-1200
Northwest District Office	(419) 352-8461
Southeast District Office	(740) 385-8501
Southwest District Office	(937) 285-6357