



Management of clinical and related wastes



AS 3816:2018

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- Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control
- Australian Dental Association
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
- Australian Private Hospitals Association
- Australian Society for Microbiology
- Consumers Federation of Australia
- New Zealand Nurses Organisation
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
- Waste Management Association of Australia
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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee HE-011, Safe Disposal of Sharps and Clinical Wastes, to supersede AS/NZS 3816—1998, *Management of clinical and related wastes*.

The objective of this Standard is to establish principles for clinical and related wastes to be safely managed and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. It seeks to provide personnel responsible for the proper handling, storage and disposal of healthcare and biomedical wastes such as hospital environmental services management, nursing unit managers, laboratory managers, practice proprietors and others with practical information about how to manage these wastes from point of generation to final disposal.

The determination of appropriate treatment and disposal practices for waste is dependent on an accurate categorization and segregation of the waste. The requirements concerning categorization of wastes has been expanded in this revision of the Standard. This revision includes Category A infectious wastes and waste containing Genetically Modified Organisms, neither of which were covered in the 1998 edition of this Standard.

The release of NZS 4304:2002 Management of Healthcare Waste by Standards New Zealand has obviated the need for the New Zealand references that were contained in the 1998 joint Australian/New Zealand version of this Standard.

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Management of clinical and related wastes

Section 1 Scope

This Standard sets out requirements for the safe identification, segregation, handling, storage, transport, treatment and disposal of clinical and related wastes which may be hazardous to the environment or human health and safety. Examples are wastes arising from activities such as medical, dental, podiatry and veterinary practice, pathology and pharmaceutical laboratories, health care and supported care services, medical emergency services, blood banks, mortuaries, brothels, tattooing and body piercing establishments.

Section 2 Referenced documents

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS 1940, *The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids*

AS 2243.10, *Safety in laboratories, Part 10: Storage of chemicals*

AS 2714, *The storage and handling of organic peroxides*

AS 3780, *The storage and handling of corrosive substances*

AS 4031, *Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas*

AS 4326, *The storage and handling of oxidizing agents*

AS/NZS 2161.10, *Occupational protective gloves, Part 10: Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms*

AS/NZS 2243.3, *Safety in laboratories, Part 3: Microbiological safety and containment*

AS/NZS 3833, *The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods, in packages and intermediate bulk containers*

AS/NZS 4123, *Mobile waste containers (all parts)*

AS/NZS 4261, *Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical applications*

AS/NZS 4452, *The storage and handling of toxic substances*

BS EN 135921, *Specification for disposable plastics refuse sacks made from polyethylene*

NZS 7603, *Specification for refuse bags for local authority collection (low density polyethylene)*

Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road & Rail (ADGC)

Code of practice for the storage and handling of dangerous goods 2013

Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Waste—A Risk Management Guide for South Australian Health Services, 2015, Government of South Australia, SA Health

Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Waste—Risk Management, July 2017, Safework NSW

Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fishing Quarantine Waste Management Policy

Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Guide for handling cytotoxic drugs and related waste, Office of Industrial Relations, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Queensland Government