Biological Infectious Biohazardous Medical Waste Checklist-Medical School

This checklist is for managing Biohazard Waste at The Medical School Campus of Washington University in St. Louis. This waste is commonly known as “medical waste,” “biological waste,” “pathological waste,” or “infectious waste.”

- Determine what type of biohazardous waste you are generating. The two (2) waste streams are:
  - Waste that must be incinerated. This waste stream includes:
    - Trace chemotherapy contaminated waste (RCRA empty drug vials, syringes and needles, spill kits, tubing and bags, contaminated gloves and gowns)
    - Human or animal parts, organs, tissues and surgical specimen (decanted of formaldehyde).
    - Pharmaceuticals that are not regulated under RCRA or are not DEA Controlled Substances. See Pharmaceutical Drug Guidelines.
  - All other Medical Waste. This waste will be autoclaved.

- If the biohazardous waste contains sharps purchase a sharps container from a lab supply company. These containers must be rigid, leakproof, puncture resistant, sealable containers.
  - Place your sharps in this container. Once the sharps container has become two thirds full, the sharp container is considered full. Do not over fill sharp containers. These sharps containers may be placed in a biohazardous box.

- Obtain a biohazardous box and tape. These are available through EHS, fill out an online request form and put in the comment section how many boxes are needed and that you have no waste to be picked up.

- Put the box together by finding the “this end up” orientation and tape the bottom of the box securely.

- Once the biohazardous box is full or is approaching the weight of forty (40) pounds it is ready to be prepared for pick up by EH&S.
  - If this box contains the waste stream for incineration, please write “incineration” on the box.
  - Close the box per the following instructions:
    - The inner red plastic liner must be tied with a single knot or gathered and cinched with tape (a minimum of three revolutions) by laboratory personnel prior to pick-up. EH&S will not pick up boxes with untied or un-taped liners.
    - Tape the flaps of the box shut. EH&S will not pick up boxes unless the flaps are taped shut.

- If your biohazardous waste contains animal carcasses:
  - If they weigh < 1 Kg they should be frozen in the lab and placed in the biohazard box the day of the EH&S pick-up or taken to back to the Department of Comparative Medicine location from which the animals were distributed.
  - If they weigh >1Kg contact Department of Comparative Medicine location from which the animals were distributed.

- Once your container is full or is approaching forty (40) pounds complete the online EH&S “Request for Pick Up” These can be found on the EH&S website (http://ehs.wustl.edu/hmm/Pages/default.aspx) under the Hazardous Material Management link. Pickups are usually made within a week of the request.
Do not dispose of Biohazardous Wastes via drain/sewer, in trash, dumping on ground or by evaporation.