

Puzzled about safe management of healthcare waste?



The Sharpak guide to what you need to know.

SHARPAK[™]
HEALTHCARE

What you need to know!

In order to help you understand the implications of the changes brought about by the publication of the NHS Technical Memorandum 07 - 01 titled the 'Safe Management of Healthcare Waste' we have put together this additional information document.



What's new?

Following over two years of consultation between the healthcare sector, waste collection and disposal companies, container suppliers and various government agencies, the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste (Environment and Sustainability Technical Memorandum 07-01) was published by the Department of Health at the end of 2006.

This replacement to the 'Safe Disposal of Clinical Waste' document known as 'The Purple Book', is considered to be a best practice document taking into account all the key regulatory requirements including segregation, health and safety, transport and waste disposal regulations.

The guide is designed to inform all producers of healthcare waste in the UK of what the minimum requirements are in order to comply with the UK's legislative requirements in relation to the implementation of the European Hazardous Waste Directive (1991).

These were introduced as the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2005), the Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations (2004) and the Hazardous Waste (Northern Ireland) regulations 2005.

Should you require more detailed information on the above regulations please refer to your DGSA or Waste Manager.

Part of the Guide is the introduction of a national colour-coding system to aid in the segregation and disposal of used sharps and other healthcare waste - with specific reference to the: **Hazardous Waste Regulations (2005) and the Technical Guidance, WM2 (2006)**.

This regulations and guidance document 'WM2' was produced jointly by the Environment Agency (EA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) in Northern Ireland), to give their interpretation, definitions and guidance on the assessment and classification of hazardous wastes in line with the EU directives.

It is intended as a reference document to be used by anyone involved in the production, management and control of hazardous waste and as such ensure that any producer of this type of waste complies with the relevant legislation.



What is the European Waste Catalogue (EWC)?

Recent regulatory changes, notably the Landfill Regulations, the Hazardous Waste Regulations and the List of Waste Regulations, require the producers of the waste to adequately describe their waste using both a written description and the use of the appropriate European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code or codes.

The EWC is produced by the European Commission in accordance with the European Waste Framework Directive to provide common terminology for describing waste throughout Europe.

European Waste codes consist of a detailed list of waste descriptions and are intended to provide a common terminology for describing each specific type of waste.

The use of these waste codes is mandatory for all waste transportation and disposal documentation.

A typical waste code is presented as a six digit number broken down into three groups of two numbers

For example: 18-01-01

The first two numbers refer to the sub-group of the waste e.g. 18 is the reference for Healthcare waste.

The second two digits refer to the subgroup e.g. 01 which signifies human healthcare waste (the digits 02 would be used for animal healthcare waste).

The third and final two digits refer to the specific type of waste in question. In this case 01 is the code for sharps.

Below is another example of a different code which you may need to use when dealing with healthcare waste produced when using cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines.

Ordinarily, Cytotoxic and Cytostatic waste produced in the human medical environment would need to be assigned with the following EWC code 18-01-08. If, however, there is also the risk of infection from the same waste then the correct code to be assigned to the container would be 18-01-03 in order to inform/ensure that the waste is subject to special disposal requirements due to the increased risk.

The following list shows the EWC codes for the types of healthcare waste.

EWC Code **Description of the waste**

18-01-XX	Waste from natal care, diagnostic, treatment or prevention of disease in humans
18-01-01	Sharps except 18-01-03*
18-01-02	Body parts and organs including blood bags and blood preserves (except 18-01-03*)
18-01-03*	Waste whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection
18-01-04	Waste whose collection and disposal is not subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection, e.g. dressings, plaster casts, linen, disposable clothing
18-01-06*	Chemicals consisting of dangerous substances
18-01-07	Chemicals other than those listed in 18-01-06*
18-01-08*	Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
18-01-09	Medicines other than those mentioned in 18-01-08*
18-01-10*	Amalgam waste from dental care
18-02-XX	Waste from research, diagnostic, treatment or prevention of disease in animals
18-02-01	Sharps except 18-02-02*
18-02-02*	Waste whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection
18-02-03	Waste whose collection and disposal is not subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection.
18-02-05*	Chemicals consisting of dangerous substances
18-02-06	Chemicals other than those listed in 18-02-06*
18-02-07*	Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
18-02-08	Medicines other than those mentioned in 18-02-07*

* Hazardous waste list entries.

It is the consignors (your) responsibility to assign the correct EWC code to any waste container before collection and disposal.

In order to help you to work to the best practice recommendation for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste, We offer a range of colour-coded Sharpak sharps containers.

The Sharpak PHARMAPak 60, 120 and 220 containers are supplied with the choice of green or blue colours and labels to aid segregation of this specific type of waste. The method of disposal will be as per code yellow containers in that the waste MUST be destroyed by incineration.

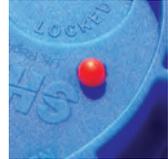
Please note, each Sharpak PHARMAPak and Sharpak HYDRI container is supplied with a HYDRI absorbent mat inside to absorb any free liquids which could accumulate inside the containers.

Sharpak HYDRI is a patented product from Nolato.



Colour Code Closures

All Sharpak colour-coded sharps containers with rotary closures are supplied with the patented VisiLOCK feature.



VisiLOCK
PATENTED

1 Fully Open



4 Locked



2 Half Open



3 Closed

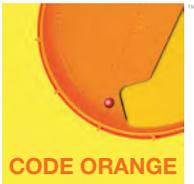


How do I segregate?

It must be your decision as to how you decide to segregate your sharps healthcare waste.

Your options are:-

Segregation option 1



All sharps waste which have NOT been contaminated with medicines of ANY type

To be destroyed by incineration or one of the other approved methods

or



All sharps waste which are contaminated with any medicines including Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

Segregation option 2



All sharps waste including those contaminated with medicines but NOT contaminated with Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

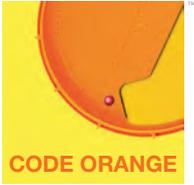
or



All sharps waste which are contaminated with any medicines including Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

Full segregation option 3



All sharps waste which have NOT been contaminated with medicines of ANY type
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration or one of the other approved methods

and



All sharps waste including those contaminated with medicines but NOT contaminated with Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

and



All sharps waste which are contaminated with any medicines including Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

Sharpak's suggestion for the segregation and disposal of Waste Medicines in their original packaging



The Sharpak PHARMApak containers have been independently UN type tested and certified for the collection and disposal of tablets, capsules, ampules, vials, liquid unit dose drugs, gels, powder, liquids, syrups and creams etc in their original packagings, but NOT Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration



Why should I segregate?

- 1 It is your responsibility as the producer of the healthcare waste to ensure that it is transported and disposed of in a safe and approved way thus preventing anyone in the disposal chain from being injured or infected during the handling of the waste.
- 2 In order to render healthcare waste safe it must be disposed of by an approved method such as incineration. If, for example, infected waste and/or waste contaminated with Cytotoxic and/or Cytostatic medicines are not correctly segregated this waste could end up being accidentally mixed with low risk waste. As such, it would not be rendered safe if processed by one of the alternative methods of disposal to incineration.
- 3 The cost of the correct disposal of the healthcare waste is another key issue. The cost to destroy waste by incineration is significantly more expensive than one of the other methods, so only waste which **MUST** be destroyed by incineration should follow this segregation route.



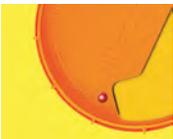
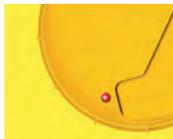


Nolato supplies Sharpak PHARMApak containers are for the collection and disposal of waste medicines which are still in their original packaging. All our customers have requested that we offer this product as they specifically want to segregate this type of pharma waste from sharps which have been contaminated with medicines which should be disposed of in a code yellow container.

The PHARMApak 60 (6 litre) 120 (12 litre) and 220 (22 litre) have all been independently UN type tested and approved for the collection and disposal of a wide range of medicines including pills, capsules, creams, pastes, gels, powders and units dose medication. Each PHARMApak container is supplied with a HYDRI mat inside to absorb any free liquids which are accidentally spilt during disposal.

The PHARMApak should be treated and disposed of in the same way as a code yellow Sharpak container in that the waste **MUST** be destroyed by incineration.

The following list gives our recommendations as to which EWC codes can be assigned to which colour-coded container. Please also refer to the code explanations on page 4.

 CODE ORANGE	 CODE YELLOW	 CODE PURPLE	 PHARMApak
18-01-01	18-01-01	18-01-01	18-01-09
18-01-03	18-01-03	18-01-03	
18-02-01	18-02-01		18-02-08
18-02-02	18-02-02		



To help you compare the original Sharpak sharps containers against the new Code Orange, Code Yellow, Code Purple and the Sharpak PHARMApaks products we have prepared a simple cross reference chart which shows you all the Nolato product and FSL order codes.

This chart is also available as an A4 wall poster for your quick reference. Complimentary copies are available on request.

Healthcare Waste comes in different colours

*Sharpak provides a range of colour-coded containers that meet the guidelines for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste (Health Technical Memorandum HTM01/01, Version 2), published by the Department of Health. Simply refer to the table below, using the Sharpak/NHS FSL codes, and select the best appropriate container for your requirements.

	CODE ORANGE	CODE YELLOW	CODE PURPLE	SPECIALIST SHARPS CONTAINERS
Sharpak containers are also available in code yellow and code purple for best practice site segregation and disposal.				
	SU06220 FSL099	SU06230 FSL343	SU06215 FSL378	 PHARMApak 60 60 LITRES PER CASE MAX CAPACITY 6.0 L
	SU06222 FSL375	SU06232 FSL372	N/A	Coming soon - New PHARMApak with Blue Lids Details to follow
	SU07420 FSL233	SU07430 FSL344	N/A	 PHARMApak 120 120 LITRES PER CASE MAX CAPACITY 12.0 L
	SU06420 FSL064	SU06430 FSL345	SU06604 FSL104	Coming soon - New PHARMApak with Blue Lids Details to follow
	SU06422 FSL376	SU06432 FSL373	N/A	 PHARMApak 220 220 LITRES PER CASE MAX CAPACITY 22.0 L
	SU03520 FSL377	SU03530 FSL374	SU03510 FSL379	PH02400B NHSSC Code TBA
	SU02620 FSL108	SU02630 FSL346	SU02610 FSL018	 IVES 240 LITRES PER CASE MAX CAPACITY 9.0 L
	SU02220 FSL101	SU02230 FSL347	SU02210 FSL020	SU06204 FSL384
	SU02420 FSL102	SU02430 FSL348	SU02410 FSL021	 SHARPAK XL TONS/SELECTORY 200 LITRES PER CASE MAX CAPACITY 20.0 L
	SU06520 FSL075	SU06530 FSL349	N/A	SU06549 FSL052
Code orange containers shown above are examples from the Sharpak colour-coded range.	Infectious waste For fully discharged sharps not contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines or sharps not contaminated with medicinal products. <i>Dispose of by incineration or other approved method.</i>	Infectious waste For partially discharged sharps not contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines. <i>Dispose of by incineration only.</i>	Cytotoxic/ cytostatic waste For sharps contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines. <i>Dispose of by incineration only.</i>	To see our complete range of clinical waste products, accessories and technical information visit www.sharpaks.com (+44) 2392 314 711

SYNERGY HEALTH is a corporate member of the Infection Prevention Society

The full range of Sharpak colour-coded sharps containers and all the accessories including procedure trays, wall and trolley brackets etc can be viewed on our website www.sharpaks.com

All Sharpak posters, including the colour code wall charts, can also be downloaded from our website.

Other useful points of reference:-

The Safe Management of Healthcare Waste Technical Memorandum 07 – 01 can be downloaded from www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH_063274

A hard copy of the technical memorandum (SBNO – 11-322766-3) can also be purchased from the publishers, The Stationery Office, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

You can contact them on 0870 600 5522, fax 0870 600 5533 or online at: www.tsoshop.co.uk

The Hazardous Waste Regulations (2005) and the Technical Guidance, WM2 (2006) can be downloaded from www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Should you not find the information you require please do not hesitate to contact.





SHARPAKTM

HEALTHCARE



Nolato Jaycare Limited Walton Road Portsmouth PO6 1TS England
Tel: +44 2392 314711 Fax: +44 2392 380314
Email: sharpak@nolato.com Web: www.sharpaks.com