

General Practitioners Committee

Guidance note for GP practices on the introduction of the new Hazardous Waste regulations, to be introduced on 16 July 2005

New hazardous waste regulations will be introduced in England on 16 July 2005, replacing the Special Waste Regulations produced in 1996. It is expected that a separate, but effectively identical set of regulations will apply to practices in Wales. In Scotland, the *Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004* have aligned the definition of 'Special Waste' with that of 'Hazardous Waste' so that the two terms now mean the same. Producers of 'Special Waste' in Scotland do not have to register with the Environment Agency, even if waste is exported to England or Wales. Regulations applicable to Northern Ireland are expected to be published, although it is not anticipated that registering with the Environment Agency will be necessary. The guidance below therefore applies to England and Wales.

Introduction

In England and Wales, most practices that produce hazardous waste will be required to be registered with the Environment Agency before hazardous waste is treated, disposed of or removed from the premises. The revised guidelines will streamline the procedures for monitoring movements of hazardous waste, as defined in the revised Hazard Waste List.

Classifying Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste is defined as *waste with one or more properties that are hazardous to health or to the environment*. A list of hazardous waste that is likely to be applicable to GP practices in particular is included at **Appendix 1**. The full *List of Wastes Regulations (England) 2004* can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wastereg-haz/annexb.pdf>

On the whole, prescription only medicines will not be classified as hazardous waste, and will now be governed by the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1990. This Act places practices under a duty of care to ensure that waste is disposed of properly however, because prescription only medicines do not fall under the Hazardous Waste Regulations they will not contribute to the weight of hazardous waste described below. Only cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines will be hazardous waste.

Registration of practices for which the new guidelines apply is required by those that produce more than 200kg of hazardous waste per year, including clinical waste. As an indication of how much this equates to, 200kg is approximately:

- 14 lead acid batteries
- 500 fluorescent tubes
- 5 small domestic fridges
- 200 filled 4 litre sharps bins.

Although it is difficult to judge at this stage, we do expect that most practices will produce this amount of hazardous waste in a year. For example, we estimate that a practice with a list size of 10,000 patients will fill five, 4 litre sharp bins a week. Practices are reminded that all hazardous waste must be transported in a licensed vehicle.

Registering with the Environment Agency

Practices responsible for disposing of or removing their own hazardous waste must register with the Environment Agency themselves, even if you are in an area where clinical waste collection is arranged and supported by PCOs. Section 46 b (ii) of the NHS GMS Premises Cost (England) Directions 2004 states that costs, which relate to the collection and disposal of clinical waste should be refunded by the PCO. Practices are advised to write to their PCO as soon as possible, notifying them of their intention to register their practice with the Environment Agency and to request reimbursement for the cost in doing so. The PCO should be asked to provide an explanation of how they intend to reimburse the practice within a given time frame, as the time remaining before registration is required is limited. The cheapest way to register is online and costs £18. This can be done by accessing the following link: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1019330/1029396/>

Registering by telephone costs £23 per premises and can be done by ringing 08708 502858 and asking to make a Hazardous Waste registration. Applications by phone can be made between 0900 and 1700 hours Monday to Friday excluding Good Friday, Christmas Day, bank holidays or other public holidays. The registration number is provided instantly when you pay by credit/debit card only.

Registering in writing can be done by obtaining a registration form by ringing 08708 502858 or from downloading the form from accessing the link below and sending it to the Environment Agency, PO Box 544, Rotherham S60 1BY. The charge for this is £28 per premises.

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/paper_app_1030944.pdf

Once registered, practices will be given a unique registration number.

Some practices within a cluster may be contacted by their waste contractors and offered registration to be completed on their behalf for an extended fee. Practices should not feel obliged to accept this offer and are eligible to apply individually for the cheapest fee. Some practices, especially those within a health centre or with service agreements such as under a PFI arrangement, may not be responsible for registration. This responsibility may fall within the remit of the building management under the service charge, which should be confirmed by inspecting the appropriate contract.

Further information can be found at:

Environment Agency homepage

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/?lang=_e

Statutory Instrument: The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20050894.htm#4>

Registration

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1019330/1029396/?lang=_e

List of Wastes (England) Regulations (2004)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wastereg-haz/annexb.pdf>

Hazardous Waste Regulations – interim guidance on premises notification

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/special/pdf/hwr-notifguidance.pdf>

FAQs

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/special/pdf/hwr-faq.pdf>

Scottish Environment Protection Agency FAQs

http://www.sepa.org.uk/guidance/waste/amendment_faq.htm

NetRegs Hazardous waste guidelines

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs/275207/276351/?version=1&lang=_e

Appendix 1. Condensed list of Hazardous Waste that may be applicable to GP surgeries

14 WASTE ORGANIC SOLVENTS, REFRIGERANTS AND PROPELLANTS (except 07 and 08)	16 03 off-specification batches and unused products
14 06 waste organic solvents, refrigerants and foam/aerosol propellants	16 03 03* inorganic wastes containing dangerous substances
14 06 01* chlorofluorocarbons, HCFC, HFC	16 03 04 inorganic wastes other than those mentioned in 16 03 03
14 06 02* other halogenated solvents and solvent mixtures	16 03 05* organic wastes containing dangerous substances
14 06 03* other solvents and solvent mixtures	16 03 06 organic wastes other than those mentioned in 16 03 05
14 06 04* sludges or solid wastes containing halogenated solvents	16 05 gases in pressure containers and discarded chemicals
14 06 05* sludges or solid wastes containing other solvents	16 05 04* gases in pressure containers (including halons) containing dangerous substances
15 WASTE PACKAGING; ABSORBENTS, WIPING CLOTHS, FILTER MATERIALS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED	16 05 05 gases in pressure containers other than those mentioned in 16 05 04
15 01 packaging (including separately collected municipal packaging waste)	16 05 06* laboratory chemicals, consisting of or containing dangerous substances, including mixtures of laboratory chemicals
15 01 01 paper and cardboard packaging	16 05 07* discarded inorganic chemicals consisting of or containing dangerous substances
15 01 02 plastic packaging	16 05 08* discarded organic chemicals consisting of or containing dangerous substances
15 01 03 wooden packaging	16 05 09 discarded chemicals other than those mentioned in 16 05 06, 16 05 07 or 16 05 08
15 01 04 metallic packaging	16 06 batteries and accumulators
15 01 05 composite packaging	16 06 01* lead batteries
15 01 06 mixed packaging	16 06 02* Ni-Cd batteries
15 01 07 glass packaging	16 06 03* mercury-containing batteries
15 01 09 textile packaging	16 06 04 alkaline batteries (except 16 06 03)
15 01 10* packaging containing residues of or contaminated by dangerous substances	16 06 05 other batteries and accumulators
15 01 11* metallic packaging containing a dangerous solid porous matrix (for example asbestos), including empty pressure containers	16 07 wastes from transport tank, storage tank and barrel cleaning (except 05 and 13)
15 02 absorbents, filter materials, wiping cloths and protective clothing	16 07 08* wastes containing oil
15 02 02* absorbents, filter materials (including oil filters not otherwise specified), wiping cloths, protective clothing contaminated by dangerous substances	16 07 09* wastes containing other dangerous substances
15 02 03 absorbents, filter materials, wiping cloths and protective clothing other than those mentioned in 15 02 02	16 07 99 wastes not otherwise specified
16 02 wastes from electrical and electronic equipment	16 08 spent catalysts
16 02 09* transformers and capacitors containing PCBs	16 08 01 spent catalysts containing gold, silver, rhenium, rhodium, palladium, iridium or platinum (except 16 08 07)
16 02 10* discarded equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs other than those mentioned in 16 02 09	16 08 02* spent catalysts containing dangerous transition metals (3) or dangerous transition metal compounds
16 02 11* discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons, HCFC, HFC	16 08 03 spent catalysts containing transition metals or transition metal compounds not otherwise specified
16 02 12* discarded equipment containing free asbestos	16 08 04 spent fluid catalytic cracking catalysts (except 16 08 07)
16 02 13* discarded equipment containing hazardous components (2) other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 to 16 02 12	16 08 05* spent catalysts containing phosphoric acid
	16 08 06* spent liquids used as catalysts
	16 08 07* spent catalysts contaminated with dangerous substances

16 09 oxidising substances	20 MUNICIPAL WASTES (HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND SIMILAR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WASTES) INCLUDING SEPARATELY COLLECTED FRACTIONS
16 09 01* permanganates, for example potassium permanganate	20 01 separately collected fractions (except 15 01)
16 09 02* chromates, for example potassium chromate, potassium or sodium dichromate	
16 09 03* peroxides, for example hydrogen peroxide	
16 09 04* oxidising substances, not otherwise specified	
16 10 aqueous liquid wastes destined for off-site treatment	20 01 01 paper and cardboard
16 10 01* aqueous liquid wastes containing dangerous substances	20 01 02 glass
16 10 02 aqueous liquid wastes other than those mentioned in 16 10 01	20 01 08 biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste
16 10 03* aqueous concentrates containing dangerous substances	20 01 10 clothes
16 10 04 aqueous concentrates other than those mentioned in 16 10 03	20 01 11 textiles
16 11 waste linings and refractories	20 01 13* solvents
16 11 01* carbon-based linings and refractories from metallurgical processes containing dangerous substances	20 01 14* acids
16 11 02 carbon-based linings and refractories from metallurgical processes others than those mentioned in 16 11 01	20 01 15* alkalines
16 11 03* other linings and refractories from metallurgical processes containing dangerous substances	20 01 17* photochemicals
16 11 04 other linings and refractories from metallurgical processes other than those mentioned in 16 11 03	20 01 19* pesticides
16 11 05* linings and refractories from non-metallurgical processes containing dangerous substances	20 01 21* fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing waste
16 11 06 linings and refractories from non-metallurgical processes others than those mentioned in 16 11 05	20 01 23* discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons
18 WASTES FROM HUMAN OR ANIMAL HEALTH CARE AND/OR RELATED RESEARCH (except kitchen and restaurant wastes not arising from immediate health care)	20 01 25 edible oil and fat
18 01 wastes from natal care, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease in humans	20 01 26* oil and fat other than those mentioned in 20 01 25
18 01 01 sharps (except 18 01 03)	20 01 27* paint, inks, adhesives and resins containing dangerous substances
18 01 02 body parts and organs including blood bags and blood preserves (except 18 01 03)	20 01 28 paint, inks, adhesives and resins other than those mentioned in 20 01 27
18 01 03* wastes whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection	20 01 29* detergents containing dangerous substances
18 01 06* chemicals consisting of or containing dangerous substances	20 01 30 detergents other than those mentioned in 20 01 29
18 01 07 chemicals other than those mentioned in 18 01 06	20 01 31* cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
18 01 08* cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines	20 01 32 medicines other than those mentioned in 20 01 31
18 01 09 medicines other than those mentioned in 18 01 08	20 01 33* batteries and accumulators included in 16 06 01, 16 06 02 or 16 06 03 and unsorted batteries and accumulators containing these batteries
18 01 10* amalgam waste from dental care	20 01 34 batteries and accumulators other than those mentioned in 20 01 33
	20 01 35* discarded electrical and electronic equipment other than those mentioned in 20
	01 21 and 20 01 23 containing hazardous components (6)
	20 01 36 discarded electrical and electronic equipment other than those mentioned in 20 01 21, 20 01 23 and 20 01 35
	20 01 37* wood containing dangerous substances
	20 01 38 wood other than that mentioned in 20 01 37
	20 01 39 plastics
	20 01 40 metals