Biomedical Waste Management

Biomedical Waste

Definition:

Wastes that are generated during the laboratory diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals, or in research activities pertaining thereto, or in the production of biologicals.



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Waste Generated in Hospitals

General waste (80%)

Pathological and infectious waste (15%)

Chemical and pharmaceutical waste (3%)

Sharp waste (1%)

Less than 1% accounts for special waste such as cytotoxic drug, radioactive waste, broken thermometers and used batteries.

Situation in India

According to the Ministry of Environment and Forests gross generation of biomedical waste in India is about 4,05,702 kg/day

Of which only 2,91,983 kg/day is properly disposed

28% of the wastes is left untreated and not disposed, finding its way in dumps or water bodies and re-enters our system.

Karnataka tops the chart among all the states in generation of biomedical waste.

T		Type of waste	Type of Bag/ container		Treatment/ Disposal options			
Yel	low	Human anatomical waste	Yellow	colour	ed non	Incineration/		Plasma
infe	ectious	Animal anatomical waste	chlorinat	ed plastic	bags	pyrolysis/ dee	ep burial	
non	- plastic	Soiled waste				Incineration/		Plasma
was	ste					Pyrolysis/	deep	burial/
						autoclaving o	r hydroc	laving +
and the second s						shredding/mu	itilation	
		Expired/ discarded	Yellow	coloured	containers/	Incineration	(cytotoxi	ic drugs
	medicines- pharmaceutical	non chlo	rinated pla	astic bags	at temperatur	e > 1200	⁰ C)	
	waste, cytotoxic drugs							
	Chemical waste	Yellow	coloured	containers/	Incineration	or	Plasma	
		non chlo	rinated pla	astic bags	pyrolysis or E	Encapsul	ation	

Category	Type of waste	Type of Bag/ container	Treatment/ Disposal options
Yellow	Chemical liquid waste	Separate collection system	Pre-treated before mixing
infectious		leading to effluent treatment	with other wastewater
non- plastic		system	
waste			
	Discarded linen	Non-chlorinated yellow	Non- chlorinated chemical
	contaminated with blood/	plastic bags/ suitable packing	disinfection followed by
	body fluids	material	incineration/ plasma pyrolysis
	Microbiology, other clinical	Autoclave safe plastic bag/	Pre-treat to sterilize with non-
	lab waste, blood bags, live/	container	chlorinated chemicals on-site
	attenuated vaccines		as per NACO/ WHO
			guidelines
			+ Incineration.

Category	Type of waste		Type of Bag/ container			Treatment/ Disposal options		
Red	Infectious	plastic	waste	Red co	oloured	non-	• Autoclaving/ micro-	
	(Recyclable)		chlorinated	plastic	bags or	waving/ hydroclaving +	
				containers			shredding	
							• Mutilation/	
							sterilization+ shredding.	
							Treated waste sent to	
							registered or authorized	
							recyclers or for energy	
E							recovery or plastics to diesel	
							or fuel oil or for road	
							making,	

Category	Type of waste	Type of Bag/ container	Treatment/ Disposal
			options
White	Waste sharps including	Puncture proof, Leak proof,	• Autoclaving/ dry heat
(Translucent)	metal sharp	tamper proof containers	sterilization+
			shredding/ mutilation
			• Encapsulation in metal
			container or cement
and the second se			concrete
			• Sanitary landfill/
			designated concrete
			waste sharp pit

Category	Type of waste	Type of Bag/ container	Treatment/ Disposal options
Blue	Glassware	Cardboard boxes with blue	Disinfection (by soaking the
	Metallic body implants	colored marking	washed glass waste after cleaning with detergent and
0			Sodium Hypochlorite
			treatment)/ through
			autoclaving/ microwaving/
WHAS INCLUSIVE RECOVER THOSE CONTAINAITED WITH CYTOTOXIC WASTER			hydroclaving + recycling

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Incineration
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Method of choice of disposal of biomedical waste.

High temperature dry oxidation process that reduces organic and combustible waste into nonorganic incombustible matter, resulting in a very significant reduction of waste volume and weight

Incineration

Incineration done for:

• Those wastes that cannot be reused, recycled or disposed off in a landfill site, for example, human and animal anatomical waste, microbiological waste, solid non-plastic infectious waste

Incineration should not be done for:

- o Pressurized gas containers
- o Reactive chemical waste
- o Halogenated plastics such as PVC (polyvinyl chloride)
- o Waste with heavy metals such as mercury, silver salts, radiographic waste, broken thermometers.

Autoclave

For ease and safety in operation, the system should be horizontal type and exclusively designed for the treatment of biomedical waste.

For optimum results, pre-vacuum-based system is preferred against the gravity type system.

Tamper-proof control panel with efficient display and recording devices for critical parameters such as time, temperature, pressure, date and batch number, etc.

Chemical Disinfection

Chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite (1–2%) are added to waste to kill or inactivate the pathogens within it.

Effluent Treatment Plant

Liquid effluent generated during the process of washing containers, vehicles, floors, etc. is first subjected to chemical treatment and then disposed in effluent treatment plant.

Microwaving

In microwaving, microbial inactivation occurs as a result of the thermal effect of electromagnetic radiation.

Intermolecular heating process

Heating occurs inside the waste material in the presence of steam

Efficacy should be monitored regularly.

Shredder

Waste are deshaped or cut into smaller pieces so as to make the wastes unrecognizable.

Helps in prevention of reuse of biomedical waste

Acts as identifier that the waste has been disinfected and is safe to dispose off.

Sanitary Landfill

Small deep burial pit of 2 meters depth.

Should be half filled with waste, then covered with lime within 50 cm of the surface, before filling the rest of the pit with soil.

Designed for disposal of hospital waste.

Encapsulation

Involves filling containers with waste, adding immobilizing material and sealing the containers To prevent the access to unscrupulous activities.

Inertization

Involves mixing waste with cement and other substances before disposal

To minimize the risk of toxic substances contained in the waste migrating into surface or ground water.

Plasma Pyrolysis

Makes use of an ionized gas in the plasma state to convert electrical energy to temperatures of several thousand degrees using plasma arc torches or electrodes.

Differences between Biomedical Waste Rule 1998 and 2016

	BMW Rule 1998	BMW Rule 2016
Categories	Ten	Four
Overlapping of category	Yes	No
Incinerator	May have only one chamber	Upgrade to have secondary chamber
Chlorinated Bags	Using it	Phase out in two years
Cytotoxic drugs	Black colour bag	Yellow bag
Majority of idea	Discarding the BMWs	For recycling