

Special Issue Newsletter——

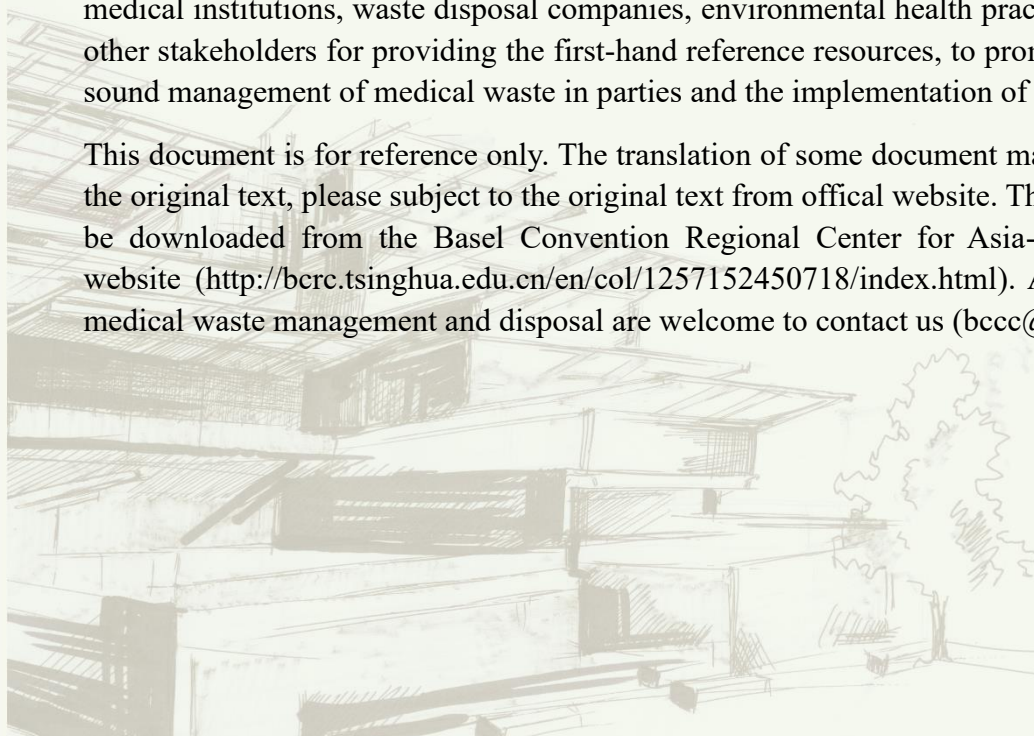
Document Assembly on Medical Waste Emergency Management and Disposal

Preface

As the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to expand, it has aroused widespread concern around the world and increased public attention to the epidemic. The demand for daily protective supplies and medical services is increasing rapidly, such as masks, gloves, protective clothing and other medical supplies. Medical waste may proliferate and spark disposal issues during the epidemic prevention and control. This has significant exposure and environmental risks if these infectious medical wastes are not properly managed, and knowledge about the potential of harm from medical waste has now become more prominent to governments, medical practitioners, waste disposers, and civil society.

There have been several public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC) in the past, such as H1N1 influenza and Ebola virus disease (EVD). Relevant international organizations and countries have also issued corresponding professional policies for medical waste emergency management and disposal agencies during the epidemic. For this, in conjunction with this COVID-19, the Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia-Pacific Regional Center in China summarizes and sorts out related policy documents such as guidelines, laws, and regulations for emergency management and disposal of medical waste. This document is prepared for parties, policy makers, medical institutions, waste disposal companies, environmental health practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders for providing the first-hand reference resources, to promote the environmentally sound management of medical waste in parties and the implementation of the Basel Convention.

This document is for reference only. The translation of some document may have discrepancy with the original text, please subject to the original text from official website. The original text could also be downloaded from the Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia-Pacific Regional Center website (<http://bcrc.tsinghua.edu.cn/en/col/1257152450718/index.html>). Any questions related to medical waste management and disposal are welcome to contact us (bccc@tsinghua.edu.cn).



NEWSLETTER

BCRC China

Responsibilities of government departments

The emergency management of medical waste during the epidemic situation involves many government departments, such as health departments, municipal administration departments, environment departments, transportation departments and others, and requires the rapid response of relevant departments as well as cross-department collaboration and comprehensive supervision. China's 'Comprehensive Management'[Notice on Issuing the Work Plan for Comprehensive Waste Management in Medical Institutions, 2020] provides reference opinions in this regard.

Management of medical institutions

Medical institutions are the main institutions that generate medical waste, the medical waste management during the epidemic period should be highly valued, and the main responsibility should be effectively implemented. The specific requirements of medical institutions for the separate collection of epidemic medical waste, standardized storage, and transfer registration can be found in Section 4. Waste Management of the WHO Guidance for Ebola [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Care of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Filovirus Haemorrhagic Fever in Health-Care Settings, with Focus on Ebola, 2014], and China Notice to Medical Institutions for COVID-19 [Notice on the Management of Medical Waste in Medical Institutions for COVID-19, 2020].

Packaging of medical waste

Most of the epidemic viruses are highly infectious, and the medical waste generated is mainly infectious waste. In order to prevent the health and environmental risks of the epidemic medical waste during subsequent collection, storage, transfer and disposal, special packaging bags and rigid containers with certain impermeability and tear strength properties are required. For related requirements, please refer to US Guidance on Packages of Ebola [DOT Guidance for Preparing Packages of Ebola Contaminated Waste for Transportation and Disposal], and China Standard of Packaging [Standard of Packaging Bags, Containers and Warning Symbols Specific to Medical Waste, 2008].

Treatment technology of medical waste

Common medical waste treatment technologies include incineration and non-incineration methods (high-temperature steam disinfection, microwave-based technologies, and chemical-based processes). WHO Technologies Overview [Overview of Technologies for the Treatment of Infectious and Sharp Waste from Health Care Facilities, 2019] provides detailed descriptions and specific examples of each technology.

Emergency Disposal of Medical Waste

During the outbreak, there are many types and quantities of infectious medical waste generated, which need to be disposed of as soon as possible, and some areas may face severe challenges of insufficient medical waste disposal capacity. For this, China Emergency Guide for COVID-19 [Guide on Management and Technical on Emergency Treatment and Disposal of Medical Waste Caused by COVID-19 (Trial), 2020] propose alternative solutions such as mobile medical waste disposal facilities, hazardous waste incineration facilities, domestic waste incineration facilities, industrial furnaces and other emergency disposal facilities, as well as in-situ incineration and landfill disposal.

NEWSLETTER

BCRC China

Whole process management of medical waste

The whole process management of medical waste involves various links such as classification, collection, storage, transfer and disposal, as well as important aspects like disinfection, personnel protection and training. WHO Safe Management [Safe Management of Wastes from Health-care Activities, Second edition, 2014], ICRC Management [Medical Waste Management, 2011], and Basel Convention Technical Guidelines [Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Healthcare Wastes (Y1; Y3), 2002], provide the all-round guidance.

Contents

1.	Notice on Issuing the Work Plan for Comprehensive Management of Medical Waste in Medical Institutions, China 2020	中文 English
2.	Classification Catalogue of Medical Waste, China 2003	中文 English
3.	Regulations on the Administration of Medical Waste, China 2011 Revision	中文 English
4.	Notice on the Management of Medical Waste in Medical Institutions for COVID-19, China 2020	中文 English
5.	Administrative Measures of Medical Waste in Medical Institutions, China 2003	中文 English
6.	Standard of Packaging Bags, Containers and Warning Symbols Specific to Medical Waste, China 2008	中文 English
7.	Notice on Environmental Management of Medical Waste Caused by COVID-19, China 2020	中文 English
8.	Guide on Management and Technical on Emergency Treatment and Disposal of Medical Waste Caused by COVID-19 (Trial), China 2020	中文 English
9.	Technical Specification on Centralized Disposal of Medical Waste (Trial), China 2003	中文 English
10.	Response Plan on the Management of Medical Waste for Influenza A (H1N1), China 2009	中文 English
11.	Measures against Infectious Diseases Related to the New Coronavirus in Waste Disposal (Notification), Japan 2020	Japanese
12.	Manual on Infectious Waste Disposal Based on Waste Disposal Law, Japan 2018	Japanese
13.	Countermeasure Guidelines on Waste Disposal Related to the New Influenza, Japan 2009	Japanese
14.	Control of Biohazardous Wastes, Singapore NEA	English

NEWSLETTER

BCRC China

15.	Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus, U.S. CDC 2014	English
16.	DOT Guidance for Preparing Packages of Ebola Contaminated Waste for Transportation and Disposal, U.S.	English
17.	Recommended Interim Practices for Large-Scale Disposal of Potentially Contaminated Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Carcasses and Wastes, U.S. EPA 2004	English
18.	Medical Waste Management Act, U.S. California, 2017	English
19.	Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Care of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Filovirus Hemorrhagic Fever in Health-Care Settings, with Focus on Ebola, WHO 2014	English
20.	Overview of Technologies for the Treatment of Infectious and Sharp Waste from Health Care Facilities, WHO 2019	English
21.	Safe Management of Wastes from Health-care Activities, Second edition, WHO 2014	English
22.	Medical Waste Management, ICRC 2011	English
23.	Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Healthcare Wastes (Y1; Y3), Basel Convention, 2002	English

General disclaimers

The designations employed and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall BCRC China be liable for damages arising from its use.

CONTACTS

EDITORIAL BOARD