

CLASSIFICATION-TRAINING CL

● WASTE TYPOLOGY

Waste from health care establishments is divided into five categories:

- waste from health care activities posing infective and similar risks
- waste from household refuse and similar products
- special waste
- radioactive waste
- anatomical specimens



● DEFINITIONS

Waste from health care activities posing infective and similar risks

According to the decree n° 97- 1048 of 6 November 1997, what is deemed health care waste posing infective and similar risks is: “ *waste from health care activities, waste from diagnostic activities, from preventive, curative or palliative monitoring and treatment, in the fields of human and veterinary medicine...*”, waste which...

- either, poses a risk of infection because it contains viable micro-organisms or their toxins..
- or, even when there is no risk of infection is included in one of the following categories:
 - disposable sharp or cutting instruments or materials, whether or not they have been in contact with a biological product
 - partially used or out of date therapeutic blood products
 - human anatomical specimens for disposal as waste, corresponding to human parts which are not easily identifiable

Anatomical specimens

“*Anatomical specimens are organs or members (..) which can be easily identified by a non-specialist...*” (Article R.44-9).

“*Anatomical specimens (..) must be incinerated (..) in an authorized crematorium...*” (Article R. 44-9)

thus enabling the identification and correction of errors occurring during sorting and collection.

● RISKS CAUSED BY WASTE

The emotional and psychological risk:

The potential presence of biological pathogen agents in waste products gives rise to a certain amount of fear in the general public and this is particularly amplified when the context of the waste product is identified (eg. Hospital refuse bin...)

The risk of infection:

The European directive of 12 December 1991 relating to dangerous waste products defines the risk of infection as “*material containing viable micro-organism or their toxins for which we have good reason to believe that they cause diseases in humans or other living organisms.*”

The potential risk concerns those people who are liable to come into physical contact with these waste products, that is to say:

- Health professionals and their employees
- Cleaning technicians, employees who collect and transport waste products
- Patients who carry out their own health care and their family, when this waste is included in household refuse
- Janitors, maintenance officers and children
- Technical departments, fire fighters and those in charge of picking up waste from the streets

● TRAINING IN SORTING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Creating awareness and motivating employees constitute an essential aspect of successful waste sorting and respecting the correct hygiene and safety*

In order to meet the increasing demands of its clients, SITA has set up its own training department.

- Optimise sorting
- Respect for circuits
- Hygiene and safety
- Respect for legislation



Personalized programmes

- Waste management training for managers
- Training in how to sort waste for employees

An approach in four stages

- A needs analysis and inventory of the establishment
- The proposal, design and realisation of a training programme
- Awareness and training by means of teaching and hands-on tools
- Evaluation and review

* *The producers are bound by law to inform their staff of measures taken for the disposal of waste arising from human health care and related products and biological material” (decree of 6 November 1997 article R. 44-11.*