

**[ JOINT DENR-DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.  
02, S. 2005, August 24, 2005 ]**

**POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON EFFECTIVE AND PROPER  
HANDLING, COLLECTION, TRANSPORT, TREATMENT, STORAGE,  
AND DISPOSAL OF HEALTH CARE WASTES**

**I. RATIONALE**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Health (DOH) hereby jointly provide the following guidelines on the management of health care wastes pursuant to, among others, the following laws, rules and regulations:

- Clean Air Act of 1999 (Republic Act 8749);
- Toxic Substances, Hazardous Waste, and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990 (Republic Act 6969);
- Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act 9003)
- Refuse Disposal of the Sanitation Code of the Philippine (Chapter XVIII, Implementing Rules and Regulations, Presidential Decree 856);
- Clean Water Act of 2004 (Republic Act 9275);
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System (Presidential Decree 1586);
- Hospital Licensure Act (Republic Act 4226)

**II. OBJECTIVES**

- A. To provide guidelines to generators, transporters and owners or operators of treatment, storage, disposal (TSD) facilities of health care waste on the proper handling, collection, transport, treatment, storage and disposal thereof;
- B. To clarify the jurisdiction, authority and responsibilities of the DENR and DOH with regard to health care waste management; and
- C. To harmonize efforts of the DENR and DOH on proper health care waste management.

**III. SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

These policies and guidelines shall apply to health care waste generators, transporters and owners or operators of TSD and final disposal facilities.

**IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- A. Health Care Wastes - include all wastes generated as a result of the following:

1. Diagnosis, treatment, management and immunization of humans or animals;
2. Research pertaining to the above activities;
3. Producing or testing of biological products; and
4. Waste originating from minor or scattered sources (i.e. dental clinics, alternative medicine clinics, etc.)

The categories of health care wastes are enumerated in Annex "A".

B. Health Care Waste Generators - include health care facilities, institutions, business establishments and other similar health care services with activities or work processes that generate health care waste.

1. Hospitals (Primary Care, Secondary Care and Tertiary Care)
2. Infirmaries
3. Birthing homes
4. Clinics

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| a. Medical                              | e. Surgical             |
| b. Ambulatory                           | f. Alternative medicine |
| c. Dialysis                             | g. Dental               |
| d. Health care centers and dispensaries | h. Veterinary           |

5. Laboratories and Research Centers

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. Medical and biomedical laboratories       | e. Nuclear medicine laboratories |
| b. Medical research centers                  | f. Biotechnology laboratories    |
| c. Blood banks and blood collection services | g. Animal research and testing   |
| d. Dental prosthetic laboratories            | h. Drug testing laboratories     |
|  | i. HIV testing laboratories      |

6. Drug Manufacturers

7. Institutions

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Drug rehabilitation center       | d. Schools of Radiologic Technology |
| b. Training centers for embalmers   | e. Medical Schools                  |
| c. Med-tech intern training centers | f. Nursing Homes                    |
|                                     | g. Dental Schools                   |

8. Mortuary and Autopsy Centers

C. Health Care Waste Transporter - a person licensed by the DENR Environmental Management Bureau to convey health care waste through air, water or land.

D. Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) Facilities - facilities where hazardous wastes are stored, treated, recycled, reprocessed and/or disposed of, as prescribed under DENR AO No. 2004-36, Chapter 6-2 (Categories of TSD Facilities).

## V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTING AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

This Joint Administrative Order shall be implemented by the DENR through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and its Regional Offices, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), and by the DOH through its Centers for Health Development (CHD), Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS), Bureau of Health Devices and Technology (BHDT), Environmental and Occupational Health Office (EOHO) of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (NCDPC), the National Center for Health Facility Development (NCHFD), and the National Reference Laboratory (NRL)-East Avenue Medical Center, Quezon City.

### A. The DENR-EMB shall:

1. Be the primary government agency responsible for implementing pertinent rules and regulations on the management of health care waste in the Philippines, particularly concerning the issuance of necessary permits and clearances for the Transport, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of such wastes, as governed by RA 6969, RA 8749, RA 9275, RA 9003, and PD 1586;
2. Formulate policies, standards, and guidelines on the transport, treatment, storage, and disposal of health care wastes.
3. Oversee compliance by generators, transporters, TSD facility operators, and/or final disposal facility operators with the proper transport, treatment, storage, and disposal of health care wastes;
4. Conduct regular sampling and monitoring of wastewater in health care and TSD facilities to determine compliance with the provisions of RA 9275;
5. Require TSD facility operators and on-site treaters to present to the DENR copies of the results of microbiological tests on the health care waste treated using autoclave, microwave, hydroclave and other disinfection facilities prior to the renewal of their Permits under RA 6969;
6. Provide technical assistance and support to the advocacy programs on health care waste management; and
7. Notify DOH on cases of non-compliance or notice of violation issued to health care facilities, institutions and establishments licensed by the DOH.

### B. The DOH shall:

1. Regulate all hospitals and other health facilities through licensure and accreditation under the Hospital Licensure Act (Republic Act No. 4226);
2. Formulate policies, standards, guidelines, systems and procedures on the management of health care waste;

3. Develop training programs and corresponding modules on health care waste management;
4. Provide technical assistance in the preparation of health care waste management plan as a requirement for licensing or the renewal thereof;
5. Provide technical assistance to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of health care waste management program;
6. Require all health care waste TSD facility operators and health care waste generators with on-site waste treatment facilities to use DOH-BHDT registered equipment or devices used for the treatment of health care wastes;
7. Conduct regular performance evaluation of equipment/devices used for the treatment of health care wastes by the DOH-BHDT;
8. Monitor the microbiological test of treated wastes to ensure compliance with DOH standards;
9. Evaluate DOH hospitals' compliance with proper health care waste management program;
10. Issue Department Circulars to ensure that all environmental requirements are complied with; and
11. Notify DENR on actions taken on cases of non-compliance or notice of violation issued to health care facilities, institutions, and business establishments.

C. The DOH-Centers for Health Development shall:

1. Advocate health care waste management (HCWM) practices to the Local Chief Executives, key leaders and other stakeholders;
2. Monitor health care waste management practices in all hospitals and other health care facilities;
3. Provide technical assistance on health care waste management (HCWM) through:
  - a. Training
  - b. Advisory on the preparation of HCWM plans as a requirement for licensing or the renewal thereof
  - c. Dissemination of policies, guidelines and information
  - d. Monitoring and validation of the implementation of HCWM
  - e. Develop, reproduce, and disseminate HCWM IEC materials
  - f. Ensure compliance by health care waste generators with all pertinent laws, rules and regulations on HCWM.

## VI. GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

### A. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### A.1 Documentary Requirements

##### A.1.1. Health Care Waste Generators

Health care waste generators are required, based on existing laws, rules and regulations, to register and secure the following permits:

A.1.1.1 From the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau

1. Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) - for the establishment of hospitals, health care facilities covered by the provisions of PD 1586 from the EMB Central Office or its Regional Offices.
2. Permit to Operate (P/O) - for Air Pollution Source and Control Installation from the EMB Regional Office.
3. Discharge Permit will be issued by the EMB Regional Office and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) based on RA 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004 (See Annex "B" LLDA Jurisdiction)
4. Hazardous Waste Generator's Registration in compliance with the implementing rules and regulations of RA 6969 (DAO 29 series of 1992 and DAO 36 series of 2004) from the EMB Regional Office.

A.1.1.2 From the DOH-Bureau of Health Facilities and Services:

1. Licenses for hospitals, laboratories, dialysis clinics, birthing homes, infirmaries, psychiatric hospitals, dental prosthetic laboratories, blood banks, ambulatory clinics, and drug treatment and rehabilitation centers.
2. Certificate of Accreditation for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) medical clinics, surgical clinics, drug testing laboratories, HIV testing laboratories, water testing laboratories, medical technologist intern training centers and training centers for embalmers.

A.1.2 Health Care Waste Transporters

Health care waste transporters are required, based on existing laws, rules, and regulations, to undertake the following:

1. Register with EMB Central Office as healthcare waste transporter;
2. Secure Transport Permit from the DENR-EMB Regional Office;
3. Comply with the DENR Manifest System; and
4. Comply with other requirements specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 6969.

A.1.3 TSD Facilities

Owners or Operators of TSD facilities are required based on existing rules and regulations to secure the following permits and clearances from DENR-EMB and DOH:

1. Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the Sanitary Landfill (SLF) and TSD Facility from the EMB Central Office or Regional Office
2. Notice to Proceed for controlled dump facility to be used as repository of health care waste from the EMB Regional Office