Important Formalin in Regulated Medical Waste Alert Notice

There has been an excessive amount of formalin being found inside of the Regulated Medical Waste containers of late and it is an issue which needs to be addressed especially with the Lab Managers and Lab Directors in all of our facilities we service.

Formalin is a **Hazardous Waste and not a Biohazardous Waste** by DOT standards as it does not fall under UN3291 designation, it **MUST** be decanted into a separate container for removal by a hazardous waste company, or as some hospitals are doing, into a formalin recycling program. This is Federal and State Law and Stericycle has to follow those regulations or risk fines just as the generating facilities do.

Because formalin is mixed in with the steam during the autoclave process or escapes from the waste during transport of the waste material, it causes it to become an aerosol which is then inhaled by our employees which is an unsafe condition for them. As a result of this, Stericycle has in place formalin monitors now to protect our employees to keep them from inhaling this material and we will be rejecting waste from facilities who are not decanting their formalin for removal from our plants. **It will be the responsibility of the generating facility to have this material removed as soon as a violation is communicated to you and will be reported to the State.**

Hazardous Waste companies will not accept waste with Biohazardous items inside of them and the same is true for Biohazardous Waste companies as we are in danger of losing our permits if Hazardous Waste is found at our plant sites. **We strongly suggest** that you send this warning to your Lab Department or you Research Clinics to make sure that personnel there are always decanting formalin off of any specimens so that we do not have this issue going forward.

If there are any questions, please let me know and I will be very happy to discuss this with anyone in greater detail.

Thank-you in advance for getting this information to your staff who use or manage the use of formalin in your facility.

Most Respectfully,

William R. Rooth

Major Account Manager

Stericycle, Inc.

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