



June 29, 2015

To: All Medical Waste Generators in Alameda County

**SUBJECT: IMPACTS OF ASSEMBLY BILL NUMBER 333 ON THE MEDICAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (DEH), Office of Solid/Medical Waste Management acts as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the Medical Waste Management Act in Alameda County, on behalf of the California Department of Public Health. On September 25, 2014, Assembly Bill 333 (AB 333) was signed by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State. AB 333 amends multiple sections of the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA).

Upon review and analysis of AB 333, Alameda County LEA has determined that medical waste generators are impacted as follows, as of January 1, 2015:

- 1) **MWMA Sections 117890 and 117895: Temporary Events Registration – Small Quantity Generators (SQGs) and Large Quantity Generators (LQGs) are now required to notify DEH of participation at temporary offsite events.** Temporary events include, but are not limited to, health fairs, vaccination clinics, and veteran stand downs. Facilities must notify the LEA of their intended participation at least 72 hours before the event in Alameda County, unless the sponsor of the temporary event previously notified the local enforcement agency. DEH will assess a notification processing fee of \$174.00 per event to the applicant.

NOTE: Small and Large Quantity Generators already registered and/or permitted with DEH are not required to pay additional temporary event offsite registration and/or permit fees. The completed notification form will be posted on the DEH website. Keep a copy of your completed form(s) and have them available for review by the LEA during your facility's inspections.
- 2) **MWMA Sections 117946 & 117976: DEH will no longer issue Limited Quantity Hauling Exemptions (LQHE).** A SQG or LQG or parent organization that employs health care professionals who generate medical waste may transport medical waste generated in limited quantities up to 35.2 pounds to a central location of accumulation, pursuant to the Materials of Trade Exemption contained in Section 173.6 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations. There is no requirement to register with DEH for the Materials of Trade Exemption. **However, you are still required to register with DEH as a Small Quantity or Large Quantity Medical Waste Generator.**
- 3) **MWMA Section 117935 and 117960: Additional information must be included in the Medical Waste Management Plan (MWMP).**

- A. The MWMP must include the steps taken to categorize pharmaceutical wastes to ensure that the wastes are properly disposed of as follows:
- i) Pharmaceutical waste classified by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as “controlled substance” are disposed in compliance with DEA requirements;
 - ii) Wastes that are not regulated pursuant to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and nonradioactive pharmaceutical wastes regulated as medical waste are safely removed for treatment by a registered hazardous waste hauler.
- B. If there is onsite treatment, the MWMP must include a closure plan for the termination of treatment at the facility. Please see the attached fill-in-the blank MWMP; updated MWMPs may be submitted with the annual permit application.
- 4) **MWMA Section 117967: Facilities with onsite treatment must provide training.** Annual training compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards is required on the use of the type of equipment, the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear, and procedures to properly clean up spills.
- 5) **MWMA Section 117630: Changes the definition of Biohazard Bag pertaining to certification, testing requirements and color-coding.** Biohazard Bag used for transport shall be marked and certified by the manufacturer as having passed the tests prescribed for tear resistance. The color of the bag must be red, except when yellow bags are used to further segregate trace chemotherapy waste and white bags are used to further segregate pathology waste.

Additional information and updates will be posted to DEH’s website at:
www.acgov.org/aceh/solid/medical_waste_management.htm

Please note that there are additional changes to the MWMA as a result of AB 333. The full text of the bill may be viewed at: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml>

Please contact me at ((510) 567-6730 with any questions concerning the Medical Waste program. You may also contact Jorge Goitia (Jorge.Goitia@acgov.org) at (510) 567-6756 or Arthur Surdilla (Arthur.Surdilla@acgov.org) at (510) 567-6868.

Sincerely,



Maria A. Mendoza, REHS
Supervising Hazardous Materials Specialist
Office of Solid/Medical Waste Program

Attachments: Medical Waste Program Temporary Offsite Event Notification form
Alameda County Medical Waste Management Plan