

 Cornell University Chemistry & Chemical Biology	Standard Operating Procedure	
Title: Managing Regulated Medical Waste	Effective: 03/20/2019	Revision:

1.0 Scope and Application:

1.1 Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) must be managed in accordance with New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Public Health Law and federal law governing Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens. Taken together, these statutes assure proper management and disposal of RMW in a manner that protects individuals from inadvertent exposure to bloodborne pathogens. This procedure provides guidance for the collection, transport and removal of RMW in the department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology located on the Cornell campus, Ithaca, NY.

2.0 Purpose:

2.1 To provide a standard operating procedure for Chemistry department labs in Olin Chemistry Research Building, Baker Laboratory and the Physical Sciences Building to collect and dispose of regulated medical waste in a safe and responsible manner.

2.2 To outline requirements for entry to the RMW accumulation site.

3.0 Definition:

Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) is material generated in research, production and testing of biologicals or health care such as:

- Infectious animal waste
- Human pathological waste
- Human blood and blood products
- Needles and syringes (sharps)
- Cultures and stocks (microbiological materials)
- Other infectious waste

4.0 Required Training:

Access to the Olin Chemistry RMW accumulation site is governed by key card. Only those users who have completed the PSC orientation training will be granted access.

5.0 Responsibilities:

5.1 PSC Safety Manager – the PSC Safety Manager will communicate this procedure to generators of RMW within the Chemistry department.

5.2 Principal Investigator, Group Safety Representative (GSR) – the Principal Investigator and GSR, are responsible to for ensuring that laboratory personnel receive appropriate training, follow this SOP and other Cornell Policies related to the handling of regulated medical waste.

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5.3 Chemistry Department Access Manager – the access manager is located in the Chemistry department administration office. This individual is responsible for verifying completion of the appropriate training and providing key card access to department members. The access manager can be reached at chemhr@cornell.edu

5.4 Waste Generators- must ensure that they have completed training as required, that materials are properly segregated, packaged, stored and transported to the waste facility for timely disposal.

6.0 Procedures:

6.1 How to handle Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) generated in the lab:

6.1.1 Instructions on preparation of laboratory waste for disposal are outlined in Cornell's [Laboratory Waste Disposal Guide](#).

6.1.2 Users can also refer to the **Visual Laboratory Waste Disposal Guide** found on Cornell's EH&S website at <https://sp.ehs.cornell.edu/lab-research-safety/waste/regulated-medical-waste/>

6.2 What to do with RMW generated in the lab:

6.2.1 Segregate the RMW into appropriate containers (red biohazard bags (double bag) or sharps disposal containers) as appropriate. See visual waste disposal guide.

6.2.2 Waste bags should never be left on floors or other areas without secondary containment.

6.2.3 Once the RMW bag or sharps container is full, seal bags with zip ties, twist ties, or tape and secure the lid on sharps disposal containers.

6.2.4 Attach a label to each bag or container, which includes:

Name
Section/Lab
Building
Phone number

You may use printer label sheets (such as Avery) and pre-print your lab group information. There are also blank labels and Sharpies available in the RMW accumulation site for your convenience.

6.2.5 Don a pair of disposable gloves and place bags or containers in a tray or bin and use a laboratory cart to move the waste. Alternatively, you can use a covered secondary container.

Never transport wastes by hand. Always use secondary containment.

6.2.6 Remove at least one of your gloves while passing through doors or elevators to prevent your gloves from touching any door handles or elevator buttons.



These are appropriate means of transporting RMW to the waste disposal area.

- 6.2.7 Transport waste to the RMW accumulation site on the Olin Chemistry loading dock.
- 6.2.8 When transporting waste, make every effort to avoid public office corridors, the atrium or passenger elevators. If possible, use service elevators and basement corridors to reach the loading dock.
- 6.2.9 On arrival to the RMW accumulation site, don a clean pair of gloves, or use your remaining gloved hand, to transfer waste from your cart/container to the staged containers in the waste room.
- 6.2.10 Clean up any material that may have transferred to the cart during transport using an appropriate disinfectant.

In the event of a large spill or release of material from primary containment, contact EH&S (255-8200) or the PSC Safety Manager.

- 6.2.11 Waste is removed from the waste room once per week. If waste containers are full or there are any other problems noted with this area, immediately contact EH&S at waste_tech@cornell.edu, Chemistry building services at chembuildingservices@cornell.edu or the PSC Safety Manager at Physical Sciences Complex Safety psc-safety@cornell.edu.