

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Back and muscle strain from manual handling



Bacterial or viral infections (HIV, hepatitis etc.) from contact with bodily fluids



Slip injuries from spillages



Trip injuries from obstructions

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?



Clean up any spillages immediately, following the relevant cleaning method for the spill

Spill kit is located:

Handling bagged clinical and hazardous waste

Safety Task Card STCPS 09

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Wear appropriate PPE, including reinforced toe cap safety shoes and safety shoes and gloves appropriate to your role when handling clinical and hazardous waste sacks. Ensure that manual handling procedures are adhered to when undertaking the task.
2. Ensure clinical and hazardous waste bags and containers are correctly tagged from the originating area before removal.
3. Clinical and hazardous waste bags must be checked for sharp protrusions, such as medical sharps and needles. Rest the bag on the bin holder while visually checking it, before lifting.
4. Use the neck of the bag as a carrying handle and carry it well away from your body and legs.
5. Lift the bag straight into a foldable waste trolley. Do not carry the bag to the waste hold.
6. Use a foldable waste trolley to transport bags to the waste hold.
7. Bags must be loaded into large ridged plastic containers or bins prior to movement from the waste hold to the waste compound. Do not leave bags on the floor where others may trip over or interfere with them.
8. Spillages and leakages of clinical and hazardous waste must be cleaned up immediately using the correct cleaning method, for example a body fluid spill kit.
9. Clinical and hazardous waste bags must be deposited in the correct bulk refuse container.
10. If mixed, i.e. domestic / tiger stripe, is found in a clinical waste bin, do not decant as the waste will need to be treated as clinical. Report this to your manager.
11. Never push down on bags if the container is overfull, but report and organise for excess to be decanted safely with long-handled waste tongs.
12. Report any needles that have been discarded in clinical and hazardous waste sacks to the client for action. This must be logged on the client incident reporting system and on AIR3.
13. Needles and other medical sharps should be removed from the waste bag either by client medical staff or using tongs, and then be deposited into a sharps box.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

Handling bagged clinical and hazardous waste continued

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List any additional hazards or risks you have identified and control measures required to manage these.

SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)