

**ADVISORY NO. 10.1: LEGISLATION REGARDING INFECTIOUS WASTE
MANAGEMENT / DISPOSAL**

INTRODUCTION TO LEGISLATION

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency regulates the packaging, treatment, transportation, and disposal of infectious wastes. The regulations include, but are not limited to, sections 3734.021 & 3734.022 in the Ohio Revised Code (<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/revisedcode/>) and the following sections in the Ohio Administrative Code (<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/oac/>)

OAC 3745-27-01	Definitions
OAC 3745-27-30	Standards for generators of infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-31	Standards for transporters of infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-32	Standards for the operation of infectious waste treatment facilities
OAC 3745-27-33	Shipping paper system
OAC 3745-27-34	Standards for packaging infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-35	Standards for handling infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-36	Requirements for infectious waste registration certificates
OAC 3745-27-37	Infectious waste treatment facility permit to install application
OAC 3745-27-38	Alternative infectious waste treatment technology approval process

CATEGORIES OF INFECTIOUS WASTE

1. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including, without limitation, specimen cultures, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, wastes from the production of biologicals, and discarded live and attenuated vaccines;
2. Laboratory wastes that were, or are likely to have been, in contact with infectious agents that may present a substantial threat to public health if improperly managed;
3. Pathological wastes, including, without limitation, human and animal tissues, organs, and body parts, and body fluids and excreta that are contaminated with or are likely to be contaminated with infectious agents, removed or obtained during surgery or autopsy or for diagnostic evaluation, provided that, with regard to pathological wastes from animals, the animals have or are likely to have been exposed to a zoonotic or infectious agent;
4. Waste materials from the rooms of humans, or the enclosures of animals, that have been isolated because of diagnosed communicable disease that are likely to transmit infectious agents. Also included are waste materials from the rooms of patients who have been placed on blood and body fluid precautions under the universal precaution system established by the "Centers for Disease Control" in the public health service of the United States department of health and human services, if specific wastes generated under the universal precautions system have been identified as infectious wastes by rules referred to in paragraph (B)(15)(h) of section 3745-27-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code ;
5. Human and animal blood specimens and blood products that are being disposed of, provided that, with regard to blood specimens and blood products from animals, the animals were or are likely to have been exposed to a zoonotic or infectious agent. "Blood products" does not include patient care waste such as bandages or disposable gowns that are lightly soiled with blood or other body fluids, unless such wastes are soiled to the extent that the generator of the wastes determines that they should be managed as infectious waste;

6. Contaminated carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were intentionally exposed to infectious agents from zoonotic or human diseases during research, production of biologicals, or testing of pharmaceutical, and carcasses and bedding of animals otherwise infected by zoonotic or infectious agents that may present a substantial threat to public health if improperly managed;
7. Sharp wastes used in the treatment, diagnosis, or inoculation of human beings or animals or that have, or are likely to have, come in contact with infectious agents in medical, research, or industrial laboratories, including, without limitation, hypodermic needles and syringes, scalpel blades, and glass articles that have been broken. Such waste items are referred to as "sharp infectious waste" or "sharps";
8. Any other waste materials generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals, that the public health council identifies as infectious wastes after determining that the wastes present a substantial threat to human health when improperly managed because they are contaminated with, or are likely to be contaminated with, infectious agents; and
9. Any other waste materials the generator designates as infectious waste.

Definition of an Infectious Agent

"Infectious agent" means a type of microorganism, helminth, or virus that causes, or significantly contributes to the cause of increased morbidity or mortality of human beings.

"Zoonotic agent" means a type of microorganism, helminth, or virus that causes disease in vertebrate animals and that is transmissible to human beings and causes or significantly contributes to the cause of increased morbidity or mortality of human beings.