

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

INTRODUCTION TO LEGISLATION

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency regulates the generation, handling, treatment and disposal of infectious wastes. The regulations include, but are not limited to, sections [3734.021](#) in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the following sections in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC):

OAC 3745-27-01	Definitions
OAC 3745-27-30	Standards for generators of infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-32	Standards for the operation of infectious waste treatment facilities
OAC 3745-27-33	Disposal paper system
OAC 3745-27-35	Standards for handling infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-36	Registration requirements for generators of infectious waste
OAC 3745-27-37	Infectious waste treatment facility permit to install application
OAC 3745-27-38	Alternative infectious waste treatment technology approval process

Infectious waste means any wastes or combination of wastes that include cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, human blood and blood products, and substances that were or are likely to have been exposed to or contaminated with or are likely to transmit an infectious agent or zoonotic agent.

CATEGORIES OF INFECTIOUS WASTE

1. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, human blood and blood products, and substances that were or are likely to have been exposed to or contaminated with or are likely to transmit an infectious agent or zoonotic agent.
2. Human blood and blood products.
3. Substances that were or are likely to have been exposed to or contaminated with or are likely to transmit an infectious agent or zoonotic agent, including the following:
 - (i) Laboratory wastes.
 - (ii) Pathological wastes.
 - (iii) Animal blood and blood products.
 - (iv) Animal carcasses and parts.

- (v) Waste materials from the rooms of humans or the enclosures of animals that have been isolated because of a diagnosed communicable disease that are likely to transmit infectious or zoonotic agents. Waste materials from the rooms of humans do not include any wastes 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, unless specific wastes generated under the universal precautions system have been identified as infectious wastes.
- (vi) Sharp wastes used in the treatment, diagnosis, or inoculation of human beings or animals.
- (vii) 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 director of health, by rules adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 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.

4. Any other waste materials the generator designates as infectious waste.

Note: Patient care waste such as bandages, disposable gowns, or permeable materials that are lightly soiled with blood or other body fluids are not considered an infectious waste unless those wastes are soiled to the extent that the generator of the wastes determines that the materials should be managed as infectious wastes.

Definition of an Infectious Agent / Zoonotic Agent:

"Infectious agent" means a type of microorganism, pathogen, virus, or proteinaceous infectious particle that can cause or significantly contribute to disease in or death of human beings.

"Zoonotic agent" means a type of microorganism, pathogen, virus, or proteinaceous infectious particle that causes disease in vertebrate animals, is transmissible to human beings, and can cause or significantly contribute to disease in or death of human beings.