

**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):

<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-01</a>	Definitions
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-30</a>	Standards for generators of infectious waste
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-32</a>	Standards for the operation of infectious waste treatment facilities
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-33</a>	Disposal paper system
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-35</a>	Standards for handling infectious waste
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-36</a>	Registration requirements for generators of infectious waste
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-37</a>	Infectious waste treatment facility permit to install application
<a href="#">OAC 3745-27-38</a>	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. Laboratory wastes;
2. Pathological wastes, including human and animal tissues, organs, body parts, and body fluids and excreta that are contaminated with or are likely to be contaminated with infectious agents or zoonotic agents;
3. Animal blood and blood products;
4. Animal carcasses and parts;
5. Waste materials from the rooms of humans, or the enclosures of animals, that have been isolated because of diagnosed communicable diseases 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 (l)(6)(g) of this rule;

6. Sharp wastes used in the treatment, diagnosis, or inoculation of human beings or animals;
7. 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 created in section 3701.33 of the Revised Code, 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. As used in this rule, "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 those wastes are soiled to the extent that the generator of the wastes determines that they should be managed as infectious wastes.
8. Any other waste materials the generator designates as infectious waste.

Definition of an Infectious 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.