

<b>Oklahoma State University Institutional Biosafety Committee</b>		
<b>Sharps Policy for work with Biohazardous Material</b>	Policy #	GA122
	Effective Date	11/17/10
	Revision Date	
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	IBC Approval Date:	11/17/10

## 1. POLICY

### Definition

The following items are considered sharps (this list is not inclusive):

- Needles
- Scalpel blades
- Lancets
- Glass
- Razor blades

### Use

- Needles/syringe use is kept to an absolute minimum.
- Whenever practical, laboratory supervisors should adopt improved engineering and work practice controls that reduce risk of sharps injuries.
- Needles must not be bent, sheared, broken, recapped, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand before disposal.
- Only needle-locking syringes or syringes with permanently affixed needles are used for injection/aspiration of infectious materials.
- Broken glassware and other sharps should be picked up using mechanical means (i.e. dustpan and brush, tongs, forceps, etc.).
- The lab maintains a needlestick injury log that contains the type of device involved, and where and how the incident happened.
- All sharps injuries are reported to the PI and the BSO.

### Disposal/Treatment

- Disposable sharps are placed in sharps containers that are labeled as a sharp container and display the biohazard symbol, are conveniently located, and are puncture resistant.
- Sharps containers remain closed when not in use.
- Sharps containers are decontaminated (e.g., autoclaved or appropriate chemical treatment) prior to disposal.
- Non-disposable sharps must be placed in a hard walled container for transport to a processing area for decontamination, preferably by autoclaving.
- If glass is NOT contaminated with biohazardous material, chemicals, radioactive materials, or other hazardous material, they may be disposed of in sturdy cardboard boxes.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all research and teaching laboratories and facilities falling within the purview of Oklahoma State University IBC (Stillwater).

### **3. RESPONSIBILITY**

Principal Investigators and Laboratory/Facility Managers/Directors have a responsibility to adhere to this policy and to continually confirm that all laboratory personnel comply with this policy.

### **4. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, & OSU POLICIES**

- Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)
- The NIH Guidelines