Greetings from the BSO

Spring is finally here and we in the Biosafety Office hope that you are all enjoying the warmer weather. Please take the time to update the project personnel section of your IBC protocols as students leave and join your laboratory. You may add or remove lab personnel using the Protocol Modification Form, which can be found in the forms section of the Biosafety webpage (http://compliance.vpr.okstate.edu/IBC/forms.aspx).

The next convened meeting of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will be held on Wednesday, May 28th. Please submit protocols requiring full committee review by Wednesday, May 14th so that they may be reviewed at this meeting.

Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) defines regulated medical waste as “waste or reusable material that contains an etiologic agent and is generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals; research pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals; or the production or testing of biological products.” Per Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 252:515-23, the DEQ requires that regulated medical waste be treated by one of the following methods prior to disposal:

1. Incineration;
2. Microwave sterilization, or steam sterilization at sufficient temperature and pressure, for sufficient time to achieve microbial inactivation;
3. Chemical disinfection where contact time, concentration and quantity of the disinfectant are sufficient to achieve microbial inactivation; or
4. Any other treatment method demonstrated to be effective in achieving microbial inactivation.
As such, biohazardous waste that has been autoclaved meets the definition of “treated biomedical waste.” The current Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) policy on disposal of treated biomedical waste follows:

Material generated at OSU facilities that meets the OAC definitions of treated biomedical waste shall be disposed of as municipal solid waste only after it has met the conditions of OAC 252:515-23. Additionally, two sides of the biohazard bag shall be labeled with the yellow sticker (see image below), which can be obtained from the departmental safety officer or EHS. After affixing the labels, the waste should be double-bagged in dark trash bags and placed in a solid waste container.

![EHS Form OAC 252:515-23-4](image)

Please ensure that biohazardous waste from your laboratory is treated and disposed of in accordance with applicable Oklahoma laws and OSU EHS policy. Additional information regarding management of medical waste can be found in OAC 252:515-23 ([http://www.deq.state.ok.us/rules/515.pdf](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/rules/515.pdf)).

**Surplus Laboratory Equipment**

Researchers continue to send unwanted laboratory equipment to surplus before it has been properly prepared. Because this equipment may be sold to the public, each researcher must take steps to ensure that he or she is not transferring pathogens or other biohazardous materials to unsuspecting individuals. Please do the following prior to having your lab equipment transferred to surplus:

1. ensure that the equipment is completely empty;
2. properly decontaminate the equipment using an effective disinfectant; and
3. remove all biohazard warning stickers from the outside of the equipment.

**Emergency Contact Information**

Researchers are required to post after-hours contact information on laboratory doors. Please use the attached form to ensure that your emergency contact information is up-to-date so that authorities may contact you in the event of an emergency in your lab.
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Special Hazards or Conditions in this Room:

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DATE _________________________________

Post Original on DOOR or in HOLDER; Send COPY to:
OSU Environmental Health & Safety Dept.
120 Physical Plant Services Bldg.