



Biohazard Labeling IC- Administrative Policy

Policy Statement

Materials contaminated with blood or body fluids shall be labeled and discarded appropriately.

Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. All wastes containing blood or body fluids will be identified by a red bag, “Biohazard” tag, label, or sign.
2. The primary purposes of identifying and labeling biohazardous waste are to warn about possible occupational exposure and to prevent accidental injury or illness to hazardous or potentially hazardous materials.
3. Biohazard bags, labels, tags, or signs will remain in place until the material is removed or disposed of according to approved procedures.
4. A second uncontaminated outer bag must be used if the outside of a bag is contaminated with body fluids (e.g., if blood splashes onto the container, if the outside of the container is handled by an employee wearing contaminated gloves, etc.) to prevent exposure.
5. Biohazard labeling tags used by our facility shall contain the following information:
 - a. The word “Biohazard” or the biological hazard symbol (The word “Biohazard” will be readable at a minimum distance of five feet (1.52m) or greater, as warranted by the hazard.); and
 - b. The specific hazardous condition or the instructions to be communicated to the employee (presented in writing, graphically, or both).
6. All staff will be informed in writing about the meaning of biohazard labels and related precautions.
7. Refrigerators or freezers containing blood or other potentially infectious materials, or other equipment contaminated by such materials, must contain an appropriate warning label or sign.

8. Anyone who willfully removes, tampers with, defaces, or otherwise alters a hazard warning sign, label, or tag will be subjected to disciplinary action, which could include termination of employment.
9. Any container used to store, transport, or ship blood or other potentially infectious materials must be properly labeled with a biohazard warning before it is transported within, or removed from, the premises.
10. Regulated waste that has been decontaminated does not need to be labeled or color-coded.
11. All inquiries concerning the identification of biohazards should be referred to the Infection Preventionist (or designee).

References	
References	<p>OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and Enforcement Procedures at: www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodborne pathogens/index.html</p>
Related Documents	<p>Medical Waste, Categories of Medical Waste Handling Medical Waste Storage</p>
Generations Revision	<p>January 2020, Reviewed July 2021</p>
Version	<p>1.3 (H5MAPL0090)</p>