

# Industrial Solid Waste Fact Sheet

## Decontaminated Infectious Wastes- Category 29

### Definition

Healthcare facilities (hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, veterinary clinics, etc.) routinely utilize steam sterilization (autoclaving) processes to decontaminate infectious materials. Autoclaves use saturated steam under high pressure to decontaminate infectious materials (i.e. cultures, cells, contaminated medical equipment, etc.) and to sterilize media, lab ware, and other items. Used properly, autoclaving technology ensures infectious waste, or potentially infectious waste, is safe for routine handling as a solid waste.

### Disposal

Approved decontaminated infectious waste materials are routed to the Kalmar Landfill MSW cell or the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy facility.

### Generator Requirements

Generators of decontaminated infectious wastes must ensure that no free liquids are present and must present a signed Certification of Autoclave Treatment Form (see below).

### Procedures

#### Typical Delivery types

- roll-off boxes
- drums and bags
- packer trucks

#### Background

Healthcare facilities (hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, veterinary clinics, etc.) routinely utilize steam sterilization (autoclaving) processes to decontaminate infectious materials. Autoclaves use saturated steam under high pressure to decontaminate infectious materials (i.e. cultures, cells, contaminated medical equipment, etc.) and to sterilize media, lab ware, and other items. Used properly, autoclaving technology ensures infectious waste, or potentially infectious waste, is safe for routine handling as a solid waste.

#### Disposal

Approved decontaminated infectious waste materials will be directed to the Kalmar Landfill MSW cell or Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy facility.

#### Testing Requirements

In general, no testing is required. However, generators of decontaminated infectious wastes that have a potential of containing free liquids (as defined by Minnesota Administrative Rules)


must complete the Absence of Free Liquids Certification Form (see Page 3) and/or analyze a representative sample of the waste using analytical method SW-846 9095B, known as the “paint filter test.”

## Documentation

A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation Form must be on file with the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department. Unless other arrangements have been made, the waste hauler must present a current, approved Non-Hazardous Industrial Solid Waste Tracking Form at the time of delivery. In addition, the hauler must present a signed Certification of Autoclave Treatment Form (see Page 4), which certifies that any previously infectious material has been rendered non-infectious prior to delivery. If completing and signing an Absence of Free Liquids Certification Form, the generator must complete and sign the certification form prior to the time of delivery.

## Special Generator Requirements

Generators of decontaminated infectious wastes must ensure that no free liquids are present. Generators of decontaminated waste must present a signed Certification of Autoclave Treatment Form (see below), which certifies that any material has been rendered non-infectious prior to the time of delivery.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
2122 CAMPUS DR SE • SUITE 202  
ROCHESTER, MN 55904-4784  
507.251.2822 • 507.251.2827  
WWW.OLMSTEDCOUNTY.MN.GOV

**CERTIFICATION OF AUTOCLAVE TREATMENT**

GENERATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GENERATOR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WASTE DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDUSTRIAL SOLID WASTE APPROVAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the above described material (from the enclosed waste receipt or an Olmsted County solid waste management facility) has been treated with autoclave and one regulation regarding autoclave treatment waste according to our best practice:

- The autoclave reached a temperature of at least 175 degrees Fahrenheit (57° C) for 15 minutes per quart (not gallons) per hour, for every container.
- All bags have been placed in a pressure sensitive container.
- No reusable boxes, buckets, drums, barrels, or other are allowed for disposal in a non-hazardous waste landfill.
- The autoclave is operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and the waste is packaged and loaded into the trailer according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.
- Biological indicator tests are routinely performed, and the results of each run had been achieved.

I am aware that there are specific parameters for autoclave sterilization, including the possibility of these requirements, or both, for heating solutions.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (PRINTED NAME) \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
2122 CAMPUS DR SE • SUITE 202  
ROCHESTER, MN 55904-4784  
507.251.2822 • 507.251.2827  
WWW.OLMSTEDCOUNTY.MN.GOV

**ABSENCE OF FREE LIQUIDS CERTIFICATION**

GENERATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GENERATOR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WASTE DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDUSTRIAL SOLID WASTE APPROVAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the above described waste that have delivered to an Olmsted County solid waste management facility for disposal is not a free liquid and does not contain any free liquid as defined by Minnesota Administrative Rules 7015.0200, subpart 36. I am aware that there are specific practices for reducing these opportunities, including the possibility of flow, impingement, or heat, for heating solutions.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (PRINTED NAME) \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER