

NIH POLICY MANUAL

3032 - WASTE MANAGEMENT AT NIH

Issuing Office: ORS/DS 496-3537

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1. **Explanation of Material Transmitted:** This chapter is being revised to reflect the move of the Emergency Management Branch from the Division of Safety to the Division of Public Safety, ORS.

1. **Filing Instructions:**

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1. **Distribution:** NIH Manual Mailing Keys F-401 and F-405

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- Content of this chapter, contact the issuing office listed above.
- On-line information, enter this URL:
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A. Purpose:

This chapter establishes policies and procedures for processing general, medical pathological, radioactive, chemical, mixed, and other waste. It applies to NIH personnel involved with the generation of all such waste and with management and support services. The removal of asbestos is not covered here; asbestos removal is a separate waste stream regulated by documents external to NIH.

B. Policy:

Waste materials are to be generated, handled, packaged, collected, transported, treated, and disposed of safely to protect employees, to assure compliance with environmental laws, regulations and permits, and to promote effective utilization of resources. NIH supports and vigorously pursues the waste minimization objectives of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and applicable State and Local initiatives, and the

radioactive waste treatment prescribed by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as amended.

C. Definitions:

1. General Waste - waste not contaminated with chemicals, infectious agents, or radioactive materials.
2. Medical Pathological Waste (MPW) - waste containing or contaminated only with potentially infectious agents.
3. Chemical Waste - nonradioactive chemicals and wastes contaminated with hazardous chemicals.
4. Radioactive Waste - any waste that contains or is contaminated with radioactive material.
5. Mixed Waste - any waste with multiple hazardous properties including contamination with radioactive waste and either infectious agents (MPW) or hazardous chemicals or both.
6. Potentially Explosive Waste - any waste compound that, when subjected to unusual temperature, humidity, and/or pressure, may explode.

D. Responsibilities:

1. The Office of Research Services (ORS), through the Division of Safety (DS), has overall responsibility for waste management.
 - a. The Environmental Protection Branch (EPB), DS, through the Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Section (HSWMS), is responsible for managing non-radioactive wastes at NIH, at NIH satellite facilities, and, under special circumstances, from facilities affiliated with NIH. HSWMS acts as the central information repository on waste management.
 - b. The Radiation Safety Branch, DS, is responsible for managing radioactive wastes generated at NIH and satellite facilities included in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licenses issued to NIH.
 - c. The Occupational Safety and Health Branch, DS, is responsible for providing technical assistance and support regarding health risks and appropriate safety precautions relating to the handling of management. OSHB also prepares standard operating procedures concerning asbestos removal for the use of ORS and contract personnel
- (DPS),is responsible for providing first response to incidents involving

2. The employee who generates waste as defined in this chapter in the Institutes, Centers, and Divisions is responsible for ensuring proper segregation of wastes; inactivation of infectious agents; and the proper packaging, labeling, and storing of waste for collection, transfer, and disposal by appropriate components of the DS.

E. Disposal Procedures:

1. Refer to the NIH Waste Calendar for disposal procedures for the following types of waste: General Waste, Medical Pathological Waste, Chemical Waste, Radioactive Waste, and Mixed Waste. To obtain a copy of the NIH Waste Calendar, please call 496-2801.
2. Call the EPB at 496-7990 for disposal procedures for: Potentially Explosive Waste

F. Additional Information:

For more information on this chapter, contact the Division of Safety on 496-3537.

G. Records Retention and Disposal:

For this chapter, records pertaining to NIH Waste Management are retained and disposed of under the authority of NIH Manual [1743](#) "Keeping and Destroying Records," Appendix 1, "NIH Records Control Schedule," Items 1300 B and 7000 C.

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