

Guidance Note H1402

Packaging and Transport of waste from suspect and confirmed cases of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs)

1. Purpose

This document is intended to provide hospitals, healthcare settings and non-healthcare settings with key information about the safe handling and disposal of Category A Infectious Waste generated from the care of persons with suspect and confirmed cases of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs).

2 Introduction

All waste from individuals known or suspected of having a Viral Haemorrhagic fever (VHFs) is classified as a Category A infectious substance under the transport of dangerous goods and requires a different packaging method from that used for packaging Category B infectious waste. : Viral Haemorrhagic fevers are classified as biosafety level 4 (BSL-4), the highest level) pathogens. Of 18 viral agents (CDC), the 4 most common types seen globally are;

- Ebola (Filoviridae)
- Marburg (Filoviridae)
- Lassa (Arenaviridae)
- Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever caused by Nairovirus

For a full list of relevant VHF viruses please refer to [Chapter 1](#) of the VHF guidance.

Appropriate general and personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE) must be provided and used by all staff involved in the handling and packaging of Category A Infectious Waste as per [Chapter 3](#) of the VHF guidance.

3 Regulations

Category A infectious waste must be consigned nationally by road according to the following dangerous goods transport regulations:

- ADR European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (Current version).
- European Communities (Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment), 2011, S.I. No. 349 of 2011. (As amended)

To comply with the above regulations all waste from patients with confirmed or suspected VHF virus must be packaged in line with this guidance document. If you have any queries regarding this guidance document, please contact your Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor.

4. Procedure for Assembly of Category A Waste Packaging

4.1 Required packaging components (Please refer to APPENDIX B)

WIVA 60L rigid clinical waste bins with solid lids (**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Different Sized Bins MUST NOT BE**

Packaging and transport of waste from suspect and confirmed cases of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers

USED)

HSE Stock item Clinical waste bags (Bunzel) or UN approved bulk clinical waste bags

6L bulksorb absorbent sheets (or gelling agent)

Traceability cable ties

Sharps bins of an appropriate size

UN 3549 Category A Infectious waste labels



4.2 Assembly Procedure




The following tables outline the procedures for assembly of packaging:





Table 1 Soft / liquid waste packaging assembly

Table 2 Sharps waste packaging assembly

Table 2A Sharps waste packaging alternative assembly (Suitable for smaller sharps bins)

Table 1: Soft / liquid waste packaging assembly

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Step 1</p> <p>Take a 60L WIVA rigid bin and apply a UN 3549 CATEGORY A INFECTIOUS WASTE label over the existing UN3291 label</p> <p>Note: If pre-printed labels are not available the attached template may be used to print the label using a colour printer (see Appendix 1 for template)</p> |  |
| <p>Step 2</p> <p>Line the 60L WIVA rigid bin with one clinical waste bag. Repeat the process with a second clinical waste bag and fold both bags back around the bin</p> |  |
| <p>Step 3</p> <p>Insert two 6L absorption sheets in the inner packaging of the 60L WIVA rigid bin</p> <p>Note: The requirement is to ensure that there is sufficient absorbent material for any liquid present – gelling agent may be used as an alternative to satisfy this requirement</p> |  |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Step 4</p> <p>The bin is now ready for the disposal of soft clinical waste that may contain small amounts of liquid</p> |  |
| <p>Step 5</p> <p>When the bin is 2/3 full with waste close the inner bag according to the manufacturer's instructions (cable tie or swan neck closure method)</p> |  |
| <p>Step 6</p> <p>Close the outer bag according to the manufacturer's instructions (cable tie or swan neck closure method)</p> |  |
| <p>Step 7</p> <p>Close the 60L WIVA rigid bin with a yellow lid</p> <p>Ensure that the clips on the lid match up prior to closure</p> |  |

Step 8

When closed, decontaminate external surface of the 60L WIVA rigid bin with a minimum concentration of at least 1,000ppm hypochlorite solution in the dirty area

Note: A higher concentration of 10,000 ppm may be used if the bins and/or environment are visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids




Apply a traceability cable tie





Remove the bins to a secure storage room

Inform the waste contractor that you have UN 3549 Category A infectious waste for collection so that special collection arrangements can be put in place



Table 2: Sharps waste packaging assembly

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Step 1</p> <p>Take a 60L WIVA rigid bin and apply a UN 3549 CATEGORY A INFECTIOUS WASTE label over the existing UN3291 label</p> <p>Note: If pre-printed labels are not available the attached template may be used to print the label using a colour printer</p> |  |
| <p>Step 2</p> <p>Line the 60L WIVA rigid bin with one clinical waste bag. Repeat the process with a second clinical waste bag and fold both bags back around the bin</p> |  |
| <p>Step 3</p> <p>Insert two 6L absorption sheets in the inner packaging of the 60L WIVA rigid bin</p> <p>Note: The requirement is to ensure that there is sufficient absorbent for any liquid present – gelling agent may be used as an alternative to satisfy this requirement</p> |  |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Step 4</p> <p>For sharps waste place the waste in the sharps bin. Ensure the sharps bin selected will fit comfortably into a 60L WIVA rigid bin</p> <p>Maintain sharps bins in the temporary closure position when not in use</p> <p>When $\frac{3}{4}$ full or up to the manufacturer line ensure sharps, container is closed correctly as per the manufacturer's instructions</p> <p>Sign and date upon closure</p> |  A yellow sharps bin with a blue lid. The lid is partially open. The bin has a biohazard label and text that includes "DANGER", "DESTROY BY IMMERSION", "CONTAMINATED SHARPS WASTE", and "SHARPS 20 PLUS". |
| <p>Step 5</p> <p>Place the sharps bin into the 60L WIVA rigid bin</p> |  A yellow sharps bin is placed inside a larger yellow bag. The bag has a blue circular logo and some text on it. |
| <p>Step 6</p> <p>Close the inner bag according to the manufacturer's instructions (cable tie or swan neck closure method)</p> |  A close-up view of the inner yellow bag being closed. The bag is tied at the top. |
| <p>Step 7</p> <p>Close the outer bag according to the manufacturer's instructions (cable tie or swan neck closure method)</p> |  A close-up view of the outer yellow bag being closed inside the bin. The bag is tied at the top. |

Step 8

Close the 60L WIVA rigid bin with a yellow lid

Ensure that the clips on the lid match up prior to closure



Step 9

When closed, decontaminate external surface of the 60L WIVA rigid bin with a minimum concentration of at least 1,000ppm hypochlorite solution in the dirty area

Note: A higher concentration of 10,000 ppm may be used if the bins and/or environment are visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids




Apply a traceability cable tie

Remove the bins to a secure storage room

Inform the waste contractor that you have UN 3549 Category A infectious waste for collection so that special collection arrangements can be put in place



Table 2A: Sharps waste packaging alternative assembly (Suitable for smaller sharps bins)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Step 1</p> <p>For sharps waste place the waste in the sharps bin Ensure the sharps bin selected will fit comfortably into a 60L WIVA rigid bin</p> <p>Maintain sharps bins in the temporary closure position when not in use</p> <p>When $\frac{3}{4}$ full or up to the manufacturer line ensure sharps, container is closed correctly as per the manufacturer's instructions</p> <p>Sign and date upon closure</p> |  |
| <p>Step 2</p> <p>Place the sharps bin in a clinical waste bag with a 6L absorbent pad and close the bag according to the manufacturer's instructions (cable tie or swan neck closure method)</p> |  |
| <p>Step 3</p> <p>Place the bagged sharps bin on top of the sealed double bagged soft waste in the WIVA bin from Table 1 Step 6</p> <p>(When the soft waste bags are closed there is usually adequate space to accommodate a small sharps bin on top of it)</p> |  |

Step 4

Close the 60L WIVA rigid bin with a yellow lid
Ensure that the clips on the lid match up prior to closure



Step 5

When closed, decontaminate external surface of the 60L WIVA rigid bin with a minimum concentration of at least 1,000ppm hypochlorite solution in the dirty area

Note: A higher concentration of 10,000 ppm may be used if the bins and/or environment are visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids

Apply a traceability cable tie

Remove the bins to a secure storage room

Inform the waste contractor that you have UN 3549 Category A infectious waste for collection so that special collection arrangements can be put in place



5. Storage pending collection by National Risk Waste Provider

The 60 litre clinical waste rigid bin must be stored in a locked and well-ventilated covered facility on-site pending diagnosis. The National Risk waste provider must be contacted to advise of potential Category A waste collection requirement.

If the diagnosis is proven to be negative, the 60 litre UN 3549 bin label must be removed and replaced by a UN 3291 label or alternatively the “UN 3549” may be struck out with an indelible marker and replaced by “UN 3291” as illustrated in Appendix 3 – the strike out should be initialed and dated. The waste shall then be removed from the storage facility and placed in the standard clinical waste UN approved wheeled bin.

If the diagnosis is proven to be positive, the waste shall remain in the locked facility until the vehicle from the National risk waste disposal company arrives for collection.

6. Collection

Upon confirmation of a positive diagnosis, contact your National risk waste provider through your Stericycle Account Manager or via serviceireland@stericycle.com or on 1-800- 937628. Stericycle will provide all required paperwork upon arrival for Category A waste collection.

Appendix 1 – UN 3549 Category A Infectious waste label

WIVA™ 60L Solid lid

3H2/X15/S/20/GB/7025



HAZARDOUS WASTE,
INFECTIOUS CLINICAL WASTE

DANGER

**DESTROY BY
INCINERATION**

OR OTHER SUITABLY
AUTHORISED PROCESS



LBW60UN3549.V1

UN3549

Hospital.....Area

Started by.....Date / /

Closed by.....Date / /

Weight limit: 15 KG

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Instructions for use

- Inner packaging - UN approved bulk clinical waste bag, bag to be closed as per bag approval, to be placed inside the intermediate packaging.
- Intermediate packaging - UN approved bulk clinical waste bag, bag to be closed as per bag approval, to be placed in the outer packaging.
- Outer packaging - 60L WIVA™ container with a Solid lid.
- Attach UN3549 label to container overlaying UN3291 label

Appendix 2: Procedure for Assembly of Category A Waste Packaging



Procedure for Assembly of Category A Waste Packaging (Monkeypox Virus)

| Version | Date | Amendments |
|---------|----------|--|
| V0.3 | 03.06.22 | Bin Decontamination - Reduction in the concentration of hypochlorite solution from 10,000ppm to 1,000ppm hypochlorite solution |

1.0 Required packaging components

WIVA 60L rigid clinical waste bins with solid lids

HSE Stock item Clinical waste bags (Bunzel) or UN approved bulk clinical waste bags

6L bulksorb absorbent sheets (or gelling agent)

Traceability cable ties

Sharps bins of an appropriate size

UN 3549 Category A Infectious waste labels



Pg 1 V0.3 – Procedure for Assembly of Category A Waste Packaging (Monkeypox Virus)

Appendix 3: Illustration of waste label alteration if diagnosis confirmed negative

WIVA™ 60L Solid lid

3H2/X15/S/20/GB/7025

**HAZARDOUS WASTE,
INFECTIOUS CLINICAL WASTE**

DANGER
DESTROY BY
INCINERATION
OR OTHER SUITABLY
AUTHORISED PROCESS

UN3291 9T
~~UN3549~~ 12/12/12

6

Weight limit: 15 KG

WIVA™ 60L Solid Lid

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Instructions for use

- Inner packaging - UN approved bulk clinical waste bag, bag to be closed as per bag approval, to be placed inside the intermediate packaging.
- Intermediate packaging - UN approved bulk clinical waste bag, bag to be closed as per bag approval, to be placed in the outer packaging.
- Outer packaging - 60L WIVA™ container with a Solid lid.
- Attach UN3549 label to container overlying UN3291 label.

Hospital.....Area

Started by.....Date / /

Closed by.....Date / /