

Puzzled about safe management of healthcare waste?



The Sharpak guide to what you need to know.

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What you need to know!

In order to help you understand the implications of the changes brought about by the publication of the NHS Technical Memorandum 07 - 01 titled the 'Safe Management of Healthcare Waste' we have put together this additional information document to complement our new Sharpak CD brochure which features the new range of Sharpak colour-coded sharps containers from Amcor Flexibles SPS.



What's new?

Following over two years of consultation between the healthcare sector, waste collection and disposal companies, container suppliers and various government agencies, the new Safe Management of Healthcare Waste (Environment and Sustainability Technical Memorandum 07–01) was published by the Department of Health at the end of 2006.

This replacement to the 'Safe Disposal of Clinical Waste' document known as 'The Purple Book', is considered to be a best practice document taking into account all the key regulatory requirements including segregation, health and safety, transport and waste disposal regulations.

The guide is designed to inform all producers of healthcare waste in the UK of what the minimum requirements are in order to comply with the UK's legislative requirements in relation to the implementation of the European Hazardous Waste Directive (1991).

These were introduced as the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2005), the Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations (2004) and the Hazardous Waste (Northern Ireland) regulations 2005.

Should you require more detailed information on the above regulations please refer to your DGSA or Waste Manager.

Part of the new Guide is the introduction of a national colour-coding system to aid in the segregation and disposal of used sharps and other healthcare waste - with specific reference to the: **Hazardous Waste Regulations (2005) and the Technical Guidance, WM2 (2006)**.

This regulations and guidance document 'WM2' was produced jointly by the Environment Agency (EA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) in Northern Ireland), to give their interpretation, definitions and guidance on the assessment and classification of hazardous wastes in line with the EU directives.

It is intended as a reference document to be used by anyone involved in the production, management and control of hazardous waste and as such ensure that any producer of this type of waste complies with the relevant legislation.



What is the European Waste Catalogue (EWC)?

Recent regulatory changes, notably the Landfill Regulations, the Hazardous Waste Regulations and the List of Waste Regulations, require the producers of the waste to adequately describe their waste using both a written description and the use of the appropriate European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code or codes.

The EWC is produced by the European Commission in accordance with the European Waste Framework Directive to provide common terminology for describing waste throughout Europe.

European Waste codes consist of a detailed list of waste descriptions and are intended to provide a common terminology for describing each specific type of waste.

The use of these waste codes is mandatory for all waste transportation and disposal documentation.

A typical waste code is presented as a six digit number broken down into three groups of two numbers

For example: 18-01-01

The first two numbers refer to the sub-group of the waste e.g. 18 is the reference for Healthcare waste.

The second two digits refer to the subgroup e.g. 01 which signifies human healthcare waste (the digits 02 would be used for animal healthcare waste).

The third and final two digits refer to the specific type of waste in question. In this case 01 is the code for sharps.

Below is another example of a different code which you may need to use when dealing with healthcare waste produced when using cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines.

Ordinarily, Cytotoxic and Cytostatic waste produced in the human medical environment would need to be assigned with the following EWC code 18-01-08. If, however, there is also the risk of infection from the same waste then the correct code to be assigned to the container would be 18-01-03 in order to inform/ensure that the waste is subject to special disposal requirements due to the increased risk.

The following list shows the EWC codes for the types of healthcare waste.

EWC Code **Description of the waste**

EWC Code	Description of the waste
18-01-XX	Waste from natal care, diagnostic, treatment or prevention of disease in humans
18-01-01	Sharps except 18-01-03*
18-01-02	Body parts and organs including blood bags and blood preserves (except 18-01-03*)
18-01-03*	Waste whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection
18-01-04	Waste whose collection and disposal is not subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection, e.g. dressings, plaster casts, linen, disposable clothing
18-01-06*	Chemicals consisting of dangerous substances
18-01-07	Chemicals other than those listed in 18-0-06*
18-01-08*	Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
18-01-09	Medicines other than those mentioned in 18-01-08*
18-01-10*	Amalgam waste from dental care
18-02-XX	Waste from research, diagnostic, treatment or prevention of disease in animals
18-02-01	Sharps except 18-02-02*
18-02-02*	Waste whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection
18-02-03	Waste whose collection and disposal is not subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection.
18-02-05*	Chemicals consisting of dangerous substances
18-02-06	Chemicals other than those listed in 18-02-06*
18-02-07*	Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
18-02-08	Medicines other than those mentioned in 18-02-07*

* Hazardous waste list entries.



It is the consignors (your) responsibility to assign the correct EWC code to any waste container before collection and disposal.

In order to help you to work to the best practice recommendation for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste, Amcor Flexibles SPS has introduced a new

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Safe Management of Healthcare Waste

Colour coded closure to meet the requirements of the Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe Management of Healthcare Waste.

Healthcare Waste now comes in different colours

Following the release of the new guide titled "Safe Management of Healthcare Waste" (Healthcare Technical Memorandum HTM07-01), (The New Purple Book), which has been published by the Department of Health, Amcor Flexibles SPS are pleased to offer a range of colour coded clinical waste containers. The Sharpak range of colour coded sharps containers will assist healthcare professionals to safely segregate and disposal of this type of healthcare waste in accordance with the best practice recommendations.

Sharpak sharps containers will consist of three groups: - Code **ORANGE**, Code **YELLOW** and Code **PURPLE**. Additional colour codes may be added in the future if considered necessary by our customers.

 <p>CODE ORANGE</p> <p>Code ORANGE Sharpak sharps containers will feature Orange closures and labels and are recommended for the segregation, collection and disposal of FULLY discharged sharps but MUST NOT be used for sharps contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines or sharps contaminated with other medicinal products.</p> <p>Code ORANGE containers can be disposed of by incineration or other approved methods.</p>	 <p>CODE YELLOW</p> <p>Code YELLOW Sharpak sharps containers will feature Yellow closures and labels and are recommended for the segregation, collection and disposal of partially discharged sharps contaminated with medicines other than cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines.</p> <p>Code YELLOW containers MUST be disposed of by incineration only.</p> <p>All Sharpak Code YELLOW sharps containers are supplied with a HYDRI mat inside to absorb any small amounts of free liquids which may accumulate in the container.</p>	 <p>CODE PURPLE</p> <p>Code PURPLE Sharpak sharps containers will feature Purple closures and labels and are recommended for the segregation, collection and disposal of sharps contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines.</p> <p>Code PURPLE containers MUST be disposed of by incineration only.</p> <p>All Sharpak Code PURPLE HYDRI sharps containers are supplied with a HYDRI mat inside to absorb any small amounts of free liquids which may accumulate in the container.</p>
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All the latest information you require relating to the Sharpak range of clinical waste containers which are available to help you meet the recommendation of the new Department of Health guide to the "Safe Management of Healthcare Waste" can be found on the Sharpak CD brochure which is available on request or on our website www.sharpakforsharps.co.uk

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Sharpak HYDRI mats are a patented product from Amcor Flexibles SPS

range of colour-coded Sharpak sharps containers. The following posters explain the colour classifications, the type and waste for each colour code and the method of disposal.

Both these A4 posters are available on request for wall mounting.

Safe Management of Healthcare Waste

<p>code orange</p> 	<p>code yellow</p> 	<p>code purple</p> 
<p>Infectious waste</p> <p>For fully discharged sharps not contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines or sharps not contaminated with medicinal products.</p> <p>Dispose of by incineration or other approved method.</p>	<p>Infectious waste</p> <p>For partially discharged sharps not contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines.</p> <p>Dispose of by incineration only.</p>	<p>Cytotoxic/cytostatic waste</p> <p>For sharps contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines.</p> <p>Dispose of by incineration only.</p>

Please refer to the new guide to the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste (The New Purple Book) published by the Department of Health (Health Technical Memorandum HTM07-01)

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www.sharpaksharps.co.uk



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Concerning the colour coding in general, Amcor Flexibles SPS, following discussions with our various customers, decided to continue to use the colour code of Green for containers designated for the collection of waste medicines.

The Sharpak PHARMAPak 60, 120 and 220 containers will be supplied with green colours and labels to aid segregation of this specific type of waste. The method of disposal will be as per code yellow containers in that the waste **MUST** be destroyed by incineration.

Please note, each Sharpak PHARMAPak and Sharpak HYDRI container is supplied with a HYDRI absorbent mat inside to absorb any free liquids which could accumulate inside the containers.

Sharpak HYDRI is a patented product from Amcor Flexibles SPS.



Colour Code Closures

All Sharpak colour-coded sharps containers with rotary closures are supplied with the patented VisiLOCK feature.



VisiLOCK
PATENTED

1 Fully Open



4 Locked



2 Half Open



3 Closed



How do I segregate?

It must be your decision as to how you decide to segregate your sharps healthcare waste.

Your options are:-

Segregation option 1



All sharps waste which have NOT been contaminated with medicines of ANY type

To be destroyed by incineration or one of the other approved methods

or



All sharps waste which are contaminated with any medicines including Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

Segregation option 2



All sharps waste including those contaminated with medicines but NOT contaminated with Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

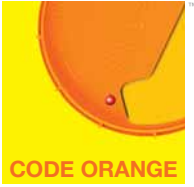
or



All sharps waste which are contaminated with any medicines including Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

Full segregation option 3



All sharps waste which have NOT been contaminated with medicines of ANY type
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration or one of the other approved methods

and



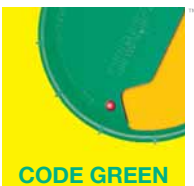
All sharps waste including those contaminated with medicines but NOT contaminated with Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

and



All sharps waste which are contaminated with any medicines including Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration

Sharpak's suggestion for the segregation and disposal of Waste Medicines in their original packaging



The Sharpak PHARMApak containers have been independently UN type tested and certified for the collection and disposal of tablets, capsules, ampules, vials, liquid unit dose drugs, gels, powder, liquids, syrups and creams etc in their original packagings, but NOT Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines

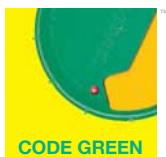
This waste MUST be destroyed by incineration



Why should I segregate?

- 1 It is your responsibility as the producer of the healthcare waste to ensure that it is transported and disposed of in a safe and approved way thus preventing anyone in the disposal chain from being injured or infected during the handling of the waste.
- 2 In order to render healthcare waste safe it must be disposed of by an approved method such as incineration. If, for example, infected waste and/or waste contaminated with Cytotoxic and/or Cytostatic medicines are not correctly segregated this waste could end up being accidentally mixed with low risk waste. As such, it would not be rendered safe if processed by one of the alternative methods of disposal to incineration.
- 3 The cost of the correct disposal of the healthcare waste is another key issue. The cost to destroy waste by incineration is significantly more expensive than one of the other methods, so only waste which **MUST** be destroyed by incineration should follow this segregation route.





Although not covered in the new guide, Amcor Flexibles SPS will continue to supply the Sharpak PHARMAPak code green containers for the collection and disposal of waste medicines which are still in their original packaging. All our customers have requested that we offer this code green product as they specifically want to segregate this type of pharma waste from sharps which have been contaminated with medicines which should be disposed of in a code yellow container.

The PHARMAPak 60 (6 litre) 120 (12 litre) and 220 (22 litre) have all been independently UN type tested and approved for the collection and disposal of a wide range of medicines including pills, capsules, creams, pastes, gels, powders and units dose medication. Each PHARMAPak container is supplied with a HYDRI mat inside to absorb any free liquids which are accidentally spilt during disposal.

The PHARMAPak should be treated and disposed of in the same way as a code yellow Sharpak container in that the waste **MUST** be destroyed by incineration.

The following list gives our recommendations as to which EWC codes can be assigned to which colour-coded container. Please also refer to the code explanations on page 4.



18-01-01

18-01-03

18-02-01

18-02-02



18-01-01

18-01-03

18-02-01

18-02-02



18-01-01

18-01-03

















18-01-09

18-02-08



To help you compare the original Sharpak sharps containers against the new Code Orange, Code Yellow, Code Purple and the Sharpak code Green PHARMAPaks products we have prepared a simple cross reference chart which shows you all the new Amcor product and FSL order codes.

This chart is also available as an A4 wall poster for your quick reference. Complimentary copies are available on request.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Sharpak Sharps Containers</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">PRODUCT CODE CROSS REFERENCE CHART</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">SHARPAK / NHS SUPPLY CHAIN FSL CODES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">NEW COLOUR CODE RECOMMENDATIONS AS PER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM HTM(07)01: SAFE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTHCARE WASTE</p>				
THE CURRENT SHARPS CONTAINER RANGE	CODE ORANGE	CODE YELLOW	CODE PURPLE	SPECIALIST SHARPS CONTAINERS
 COMPACT MAX CAPACITY 0.5L	SU06220 FSL099	SU06230 FSL343	SU06215 FSL378	 PHARMAPAK 60 MAX CAPACITY 6.0L
 COMPACT Q MAX CAPACITY 0.5L	SU06222 FSL375	SU06232 FSL372	N/A	PH02000 FSL380
 SHARPAK 6 MAX CAPACITY 0.6L	SU07420 FSL233	SU07430 FSL344	N/A	 PHARMAPAK 120 MAX CAPACITY 12.0L
 SHARPAK 18 MAX CAPACITY 1.5L	SU06420 FSL064	SU06430 FSL345	SU06604 FSL104	PH02200 FSL381
 SHARPAK 18 E20 MAX CAPACITY 1.5L	SU06422 FSL376	SU06432 FSL373	N/A	 PHARMAPAK 220 MAX CAPACITY 22.0L
 SHARPAK 35 MAX CAPACITY 3.5L	SU03520 FSL377	SU03530 FSL374	SU03510 FSL379	PH02400 FSL382
 SHARPAK 60 MAX CAPACITY 6.0L	SU02620 FSL108	SU02630 FSL346	SU02610 FSL018	TKS MAX CAPACITY 0.3L
 SHARPAK 120 MAX CAPACITY 12.0L	SU02220 FSL101	SU02230 FSL347	SU02210 FSL020	SU06204 FSL384
 SHARPAK 220 MAX CAPACITY 22.0L	SU02420 FSL102	SU02430 FSL348	SU02410 FSL021	 SHARPAK TL TOMSELECTOMY MAX CAPACITY 28.0L
 SHARPAK XL MAX CAPACITY 26.3L	SU06520 FSL075	SU06530 FSL349	N/A	SU06549 FSL052
The standard Sharpak range for export and selected markets.	Infectious waste For fully discharged sharps not contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines or sharps not contaminated with medicinal products. <i>Dispose of by incineration or other approved method.</i>	Infectious waste For partially discharged sharps not contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines. <i>Dispose of by incineration only.</i>	Cytotoxic/ cytostatic waste For sharps contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines. <i>Dispose of by incineration only.</i>	AMCOR/SPS 0117 983 6000 OR VERNON-CARUS LTD 01772 299 900 www.sharpakforsharps.co.uk SHARPAK HEALTHCARE

The full range of Sharpak colour-coded sharps containers and all the accessories including procedure trays, wall and trolley brackets etc can be viewed on our new CD brochure which is available free of charge on request. Alternatively you can view the full range on our website www.sharpakforsharps.co.uk

All Sharpak posters, including the colour code wall charts, can also be downloaded from our website.

Other useful points of reference:-

The Safe Management of Healthcare Waste Technical Memorandum 07 – 01 can be downloaded from www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH_063274

A hard copy of the technical memorandum (SBNO – 11-322766-3) can also be purchased from the publishers, The Stationery Office, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

You can contact them on 0870 600 5522, fax 0870 600 5533 or online at: www.tsoshop.co.uk

The Hazardous Waste Regulations (2005) and the Technical Guidance, WM2 (2006) can be downloaded from www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Should you not find the information you require please do not hesitate to contact either Amcor Flexibles SPS on 0117 983 6003 or Vernon-Carus Limited on 01772 299900 and we will be pleased help.





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