

# SAFETY ALERT

## BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

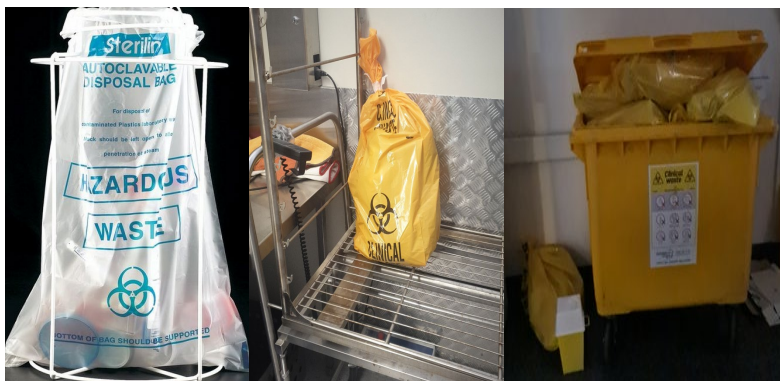


Date: 07/11/2023

ID/Ref 04-23

### Waste to be autoclaved before disposal:

- must be placed into an autoclavable waste bag or sharps bin.
- must be clearly labelled identifying the owner and if the contents contain GMOs
- must be transported in double containment to the autoclave room.
- After autoclaving will be placed into the designated yellow waste bin for disposal
- Yellow waste bins must be sealed shut once they are full (do not overfill)



### Who you need to do now.

Check you are complying with the disposal requirements for the classes of biologicals you handle

### What happened.

There have been incidents reported recently relating to biological waste including unlabelled waste being left in the Biology autoclave room in a non-autoclavable bag, and a waste bin being overfilled at HMRI

### Who does this impact.

Workers in PC2 facilities and autoclave rooms.

### What the university is doing.

Requirements relating to waste disposal are covered in the mandatory Laboratory Safety training in Discover.

PC2 certified facility workers must also complete the OGTR Certified Facility Authorised Person Form to confirm they have read and will abide by the relevant guidelines including the OGTR Guidelines for the Transport, Storage and Disposal of GMOs.

### Recommended ongoing actions.

Ensure facility inductions for all new workers includes this information

### Background/Related info.

**Biological waste that is required to be autoclaved before disposal includes-** all GMO waste, cultured risk group 2 microorganisms; imported material where biosecurity conditions include this requirement before disposal; and all associated contaminated consumables. Liquid waste falling under these categories may be chemically inactivated with bleach instead of autoclaving, noting autoclaving is the preferred option.

Solid risk group 1 biological waste and non-cultured clinical waste may be disposed directly into yellow (non-autoclavable) biohazard bags, which when full are sealed and placed into the plastic yellow bins provided by the waste contractor.

Sharps are to be disposed into sharps bins and managed as identified above according to waste type.