
HAZARDOUS WASTE (MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING) RULES, INDIA

Biomedical waste (BMW) is the waste generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals, or in research activities pertaining these to, or in the production or testing of biological. With a view to control the indiscriminate disposal of hospital waste/biomedical waste, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989. These have been amended from time to time, the last in the year 2003.

These rules apply to hospitals, nursing homes, veterinary hospitals, animal houses, pathological laboratories and blood banks [except such occupier of clinics, dispensaries, pathological labs, blood banks providing treatment/service to less than 1,000 (One thousand) patients per month].

The six schedules of the Rules define the categories of biomedical waste, colour code and container type for BMW disposal, label for BMW container/bags, label for transport of BMW container/bags, standards of treatment and disposal of BMW, and a schedule for BMW treatment facilities.

These rules also incorporate lot of practices under the Universal Precautions advocated against spread of blood-borne diseases including HIV.

Reference

<http://envfor.nic.in/legis/hsm/biomed.html>