

Handling of health care waste materials



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Preface

This is the fourth edition of CSA Z317.10, *Handling of health care waste materials*. It supersedes the previous edition, published in 2009 under the title *Handling of waste materials in health care facilities and veterinary health care facilities*. It is one of a series of Standards related to health care facility engineering and sets forth preventive measures intended to protect patients, staff, visitors, and the public from exposure to potentially hazardous waste materials.

This Standard specifies requirements for the packaging, collection, storage, handling, treatment, and disposal of waste materials within health care facilities and veterinary health care facilities. This Standard also includes guidance for health care waste materials generated outside of traditional health care settings (e.g., health care in the home environment, waste generated or recovered during emergency response activities). This Standard is also intended to assist in the reduction of waste by providing recommended recycling practices.

Major changes in this fourth edition include the following:

- a) updating current waste handling practices related to chemical, cytotoxic, and radioactive waste streams;
- b) guidance for health care waste generated outside of health care and veterinary health care facilities based on the recognition that health care is increasingly being administered outside of traditional acute care hospitals; and
- c) guidance for health care waste generated from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and First Responder (FR) activities.

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Waste Handling in Health Care Facilities, under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Health Care Facilities and the Strategic Steering Committee on Health Care Technology & Systems, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

Notes:

- 1) *Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.*
- 2) *Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.*
- 3) *This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.*
- 4) *To submit a request for interpretation of this Standard, please send the following information to inquiries@csagroup.ca and include “Request for interpretation” in the subject line:*
 - a) *define the problem, making reference to the specific clause, and, where appropriate, include an illustrative sketch;*
 - b) *provide an explanation of circumstances surrounding the actual field condition; and*
 - c) *where possible, phrase the request in such a way that a specific “yes” or “no” answer will address the issue.*

Committee interpretations are processed in accordance with the CSA Directives and guidelines governing standardization and are available on the Current Standards Activities page at standardsactivities.csa.ca.

- 5) *This Standard is subject to review within five years from the date of publication. Suggestions for its improvement will be referred to the appropriate committee. To submit a proposal for change, please send the following information to inquiries@csagroup.org and include "Proposal for change" in the subject line:*
- a) *Standard designation (number);*
 - b) *relevant clause, table, and/or figure number;*
 - c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
 - d) *rationale for the change.*

CSA Z317.10:15

Handling of health care waste materials

1 Scope

1.1

This Standard specifies requirements for the packaging, collection, handling, storage, and on-site treatment and disposal of health care waste materials.

1.2

1.2.1

This Standard applies to health care and veterinary-related waste, and health care-related waste generated in non-traditional health care settings.

1.2.2

“Health care and veterinary” refers to

- a) health care facilities and mobile units;
- b) veterinary facilities and mobile units;
- c) blood banks; and
- d) blood collection centres.

Note: See Annex C for examples of health care facilities.

1.2.3

Biomedical waste generated in non-traditional health care settings includes health care-related waste generated

- a) in the home environment; and
- b) during emergency medical services, pre-hospital care.

Note: This Standard may also be applied to the following:

- a) medical research and teaching facilities;
- b) veterinary research and teaching facilities;
- c) clinical and research laboratories where the waste generated is within the scope of this Standard;
- d) vaccine production facilities;
- e) vaccine testing facilities;
- f) mortuaries and funeral homes;
- g) coroner's laboratories; and
- h) personal service facilities (e.g., providing tattoo, ear/body piercing, aesthetic, and electrolysis services).

1.3

This Standard does not provide technical requirements for off-site transportation or disposal of waste after removal.

Note: Such requirements are specified in federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal regulations and legislation.