



CSA Z317.10:21
National Standard of Canada



Handling of health care waste materials



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The Technical Subcommittee on Handling of Health Care Waste Materials wish to acknowledge the tremendous contribution and leadership of the late Greg Kuzmenko towards the development of this Standard. The sudden loss of Greg Kuzmenko deeply affected everyone involved in this project.

Preface

This is the fifth edition of CSA Z317.10, *Handling of health care waste materials*. It supersedes the previous edition, published in 2015 under the current title and 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 applies to health care waste materials generated outside of traditional health care facility environments in public and community settings, including structures which might be of a temporary nature (e.g., health care in the home environment, waste generated in public spaces, waste generated or recovered during emergency response activities, etc.), and in personal care service settings (e.g., waste generated from tattoo parlours, piercing services, electrolysis, aesthetic services, etc.).

For the first time, this Standard addresses the special precautions associated with the management of Category A waste, as defined in the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*, and includes waste contaminated with Risk Group 3 and Risk Group 4 known infectious substances or pathogens, as defined in the *Human Pathogens and Toxins Act*.

This Standard is also intended to assist in the reduction of waste by providing recommended recycling practices to protect the environment and promote sustainability.

Major changes in this fifth edition include the following:

- a) a new clause dedicated to cytotoxic waste; and
- b) special precautions associated with the management of Category A waste and waste contaminated with Risk Group 3 and Risk Group 4 known infectious substances or pathogens.

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 and Well-being, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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CSA Z317.10:21

Handling of health care waste materials

0 Introduction

Handling of health care waste materials is an important aspect of the daily operations of health care, veterinary, public, and community settings. There are two major components of the waste handling system: waste handling within a facility (generation, storage, collection, etc.) and waste disposal to a licensed facility (landfill, transfer station, etc.). This Standard provides guidelines that focus on waste handling within a facility. However, waste disposal policies according to local authorities having jurisdiction can greatly impact the waste handling within a facility. As such, this Standard should be used in conjunction with any guidance provided by local authorities having jurisdiction. Furthermore, there may be provincial and federal regulations that impact this process and should be reviewed.

1 Scope

1.1 General

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

1.2 Application

1.2.1 General

This Standard applies to health care and veterinary-related waste, and health care-related waste generated from traditional health care settings, public settings, and personal service settings, including structures which could be of a temporary nature.

1.2.2 Health care and veterinary settings

“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.

Notes:

- 1) *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; and*
 - g) *coroners’ laboratories.*
- 2) *See Annex B for examples of health care facilities.*