

Pre-Acceptance Audit Guidance Notes

This guide is produced to assist Healthcare premises comply with the latest Environment Agency requirements.

Briefly the new requirement places the onus on Healthcare premises including Hospitals, Research Laboratories, General practices, Health centres Dentists and Veterinary Practices to carry out a pre-acceptance audit before any healthcare or related waste leaves their premises. Licensed clinical waste disposal facilities, including both incinerators and treatment plants, are now required to obtain this information from their customers before they can accept your waste. In addition, as producers of waste you have a legal 'Duty of Care' to take all reasonable steps to keep waste safe. This applies to everyone involved in handling the waste from the person or process that produces it to the person who finally disposes of it.

The timetable for the implementation of pre-acceptance procedures varies depending on the nature and quantity of waste produced and the type of premises where the waste derives. Low risk medical practices producing less than 5 tonnes per annum are required to provide an audit form 1 July 2011. For full details see the Environment Agency briefing document Clinical Waste Pre-acceptance, table 1: Timetable for the implementation of pre-acceptance procedures document, link below.

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Briefing_note_Oct_2010_vs_6_final.pdf

For large producers of waste producing more than 5 tonnes per annum the frequency of pre-acceptance checks is annually.

Small producers (specifically laboratories, veterinary practices, and dental practices) its every 2 years.

Smaller lower risk medical practices (e.g. healthcare centres, G.P surgeries, and community pharmacies) its every 5 years.

Should you require any assistance with your Pre-Acceptance Audit please contact our office.

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