



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

## Medical Waste Producers Pocket Reference

Part 138 of Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978

This Pocket Reference is a quick reference tool for owners and operators of medical waste producing facilities.

This Pocket Reference is to be used as a tool to evaluate compliance with the primary requirements of Part 138 of Act 368.

This Pocket Reference in no way replaces the need for owners and operators of medical waste producing facilities to understand the law.

For more detail on:

- the law,
- the registration process, or
- medical waste handling, go to

**[www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste)**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Medical Waste Regulatory Program

**For Questions or to Report Concerns About  
Medical Waste Handling Contact:**

**517-284-6594**

DEQ Internet: [www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste)  
E-mail: [medicalwaste@michigan.gov](mailto:medicalwaste@michigan.gov)

# QUICK COMPLIANCE REFERENCE

## **I. REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE INCLUDES:**

- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents.
- Human and animal blood and body fluids.
- Sharps.
- Pathological waste (organs, tissues, etc.).
- Contaminated animal waste infectious to humans.

## **II. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

Required for facilities that produce any volume of medical waste, and expires every 3 years; renewal applications are sent to facilities automatically. Registration fees vary between \$50 to \$150 depending upon the facility type. Initial applications are available online at [www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste).

## **III. MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Required of all medical waste producing facilities and must list and describe the type(s) of medical waste produced by the facility and method(s) of packaging, storage, treatment, and disposal used for each medical waste type. A sample plan is available online at [www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste).

## **IV. EMPLOYEE SAFETY & RECORD OF TRAINING**

Proper personal protective equipment and universal precautions should be practiced at all times to prevent risk of infection and exposure to employees. A record of training for all employees handling medical waste at the facility must be documented in accordance with the facility Medical Waste Management Plan and made available upon inspection for a minimum of 3 years.

## **V. PACKAGING & STORAGE**

Appropriate bags, containers, and packaging should be in use at all times for proper medical waste segregation and safety. See Part 138 of Act 368 for the packing and storage requirements and a list of disposal vendors online at [www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste). Medical waste may be stored at a producing facility no longer than 90 days (including sharps). The storage period begins on the date when the container use is initiated.

## **VI. SHIPMENT RECORDS**

Documentation that verifies regulated medical waste is removed from the facility and properly treated and disposed every 90 days is required to be made available upon inspection for a minimum of 3 years.

**To report an environmental emergency involving  
WATER, LAND, AIR, WETLANDS, DAMS, or  
IMPROPER DISPOSAL  
call our 24-hour Pollution Emergency Alerting System  
(PEAS)**

**1-800-292-4706**

**FOR POLLUTION EMERGENCIES  
CALL THE POLLUTION EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM**