

Regulated Medical Waste as Defined by the NJDEP

This document contains regulatory definitions taken from the [N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6 Definition of Regulated Medical Waste](#). Certain elements of this subchapter have been rewritten in the following text for clarification or to remove information not relevant to university lab operations.

- (a) A regulated medical waste is any solid waste*, generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals (with the exception of hazardous waste identified or listed under the regulations in [40 CFR. Part 261](#)), that is listed or meets any waste characteristic classification criteria described in the following table:

Class:	Waste:	Definitions:
1	Cultures and Stocks	Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including: cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.
2	Pathological Wastes	Human pathological wastes, including tissues, organs, and body parts and body fluids that are removed during surgery or autopsy, or other medical procedures, and specimens of body fluids and their containers
3	Human Blood and Blood Products	Liquid waste human blood; blood; items saturated and/or dripping with human blood; or items that were saturated and/or dripping with human blood that are now caked with dried human blood; including serum, plasma, and other blood components, and their containers, which were used or intended for use in either patient care, testing and laboratory analysis or the development of pharmaceuticals. Intravenous bags (only if they have come into contact with blood or other regulated body fluid), soft plastic pipettes and plastic blood vials are also included in this category.

4	Sharps	Sharps that were used in animal or human patient care or treatment or in medical research, or industrial laboratories, including sharp, or potentially sharp if broken, items such as, but not limited to, hypodermic needles, all syringes to which a needle can be attached (with or without the attached needle) and their components, including those from manufacturing research, manufacturing and marketing, pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, carpules, needles with attached tubing, acupuncture needles and culture dishes (regardless of presence of infectious agents). Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents, such as used slides and cover slips.
5	Animal Waste	Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research (including research in veterinary hospitals), production of biologicals, or testing of pharmaceuticals. Carcasses that are not known to have been exposed to agents infectious to humans are considered Waste Type ID 25*, and, therefore, are not included in this class. * An example of a Type ID 25 waste would be preserved animal dissection specimens from teaching labs. These animals are collected and disposed of as Non-RCRA Regulated waste.
6	Isolation Wastes	Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans who are isolated to protect others from certain highly communicable diseases, or isolated animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases.
7	Unused Sharps	The following unused, discarded sharps, that were intended to be used: hypodermic needles, suture needles, syringes, and scalpel blades.

* **IMPORTANT:** The term Solid Waste is not limited to physically solid materials. Solid, liquid, semi-solid, and gaseous materials are all considered Solid Waste for the purposes of disposal.

Please contact Laboratory Safety at 856-256-5105 or LabSafety@Rowan.edu with any questions related to Regulated Medical Waste.