



*Managing  
Medical Waste  
by Mail*

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **DMM 601.10.17.5 Sharps/Other**
- **Authorization (a)**
- **Packaging (b)**
- **Medical Professional Packages (c)**
- **Labeling, Marking, Documentation (d)**
- **Package Testing (e)**
- **Testing Criteria (f)**
- **Suspension of Authorization (g)**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **DMM 601.10.17.5 Sharps/Other**
  - ▶ **Category B Only**
  - ▶ **UN 3291**
  - ▶ **Merchandise Return Service**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Authorization**
  - ▶ **Prior to Mailing**
    - ▶ **Tested by Independent Testing Facility**
    - ▶ **Vendor Must Submit Written Request**
      - **Manager, Mailing Standards**
  - ▶ **\$50,000 Surety Bond**
  - ▶ **Address (List of Distributors Upon Request)**
  - ▶ **Name, Address, Phone # of Disposal Site**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Authorization Continued**
  - ▶ **Type of Container**
  - ▶ **Copy of Waste Shipping Paper/ Manifest**
  - ▶ **24-Hour Emergency Phone Number**
  - ▶ **Copy of MRS Label**
  - ▶ **Address of Post Office of Delivery**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Packaging**
  - ▶ **Primary**
  - ▶ **Secondary**
  - ▶ **Outer**
  - ▶ **Absorbent**
  - ▶ **Instructions**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Primary Packaging**
  - ▶ **Rigid, Securely Sealed, Leakproof**
  - ▶ **Puncture Resistant (Sharps)**
  - ▶ **3 Gallon (Sharps)**
  - ▶ **5 Gallon (Non-Sharps)**
  - ▶ **50 ml Residual Liquid**
  - ▶ **Test Results Must Show**
    - ▶ **No Penetration Through the Primary**
    - ▶ **Integrity at 0°F and 120°F**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Secondary Packaging**
  - ▶ Watertight
  - ▶ Bag and a Box
  - ▶ **4 mil Thick**
  - ▶ **Primaries Must Fit Securely in Secondary**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Outer Packaging**
  - ▶ **200 –Pound Grade Corrugated Fiberboard**
  - ▶ **Secure Joints**
  - ▶ **Water-Resistant Tape**
  - ▶ **Secondary Must Fit Securely in Outer**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Absorbency**
  - ▶ **Inside the Primary**
  - ▶ **Retain Three Times Allowable Liquid**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Weight**
  - ▶ **Not More Than 25 Pounds**
  - ▶ **Maximum Allowable Weight Must Be Printed on the Outside of the Box**
    - ▶ **On Assembly and Closure Instructions**
    - ▶ **Tested at Maximum Allowable Weight**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Instructions**
  - ▶ **Step-by-Step Assembly**
  - ▶ **Customer Service Telephone Number**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Medical Professional Packaging**
  - ▶ **Small Medical Offices**
  - ▶ **One Primary Larger than 5 Gallons**
  - ▶ **Pre-Primary Sharp Receptacles (Multiple)**
  - ▶ **Tie-closed Bags (Multiple)**
  - ▶ **Primary - Lined 4 mil Bag and Absorbent**
  - ▶ **35 Pound Weight Limit**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Labeling**
  - ▶ **“Medical Professional”**
  - ▶ **Labels on Primary and Outer**
    - ▶ **Vendor Name**
    - ▶ **USPS Authorization Number**
    - ▶ **Container ID Number or Model Number**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Marking**
  - ▶ **International Biohazard Symbol (Larger)**
    - ▶ **Black**
    - ▶ **Either Fluorescent Orange or Fluorescent Red Background**
    - ▶ **Outer Shipping Container At Least 3in. High and 4in. Wide**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Documentation**
  - ▶ **Shipping Paper**
  - ▶ **Merchandise Return Label (MRS)**
  - ▶ **Orientation Arrows**
  - ▶ **UN 3291**
  - ▶ **Must Retrieve Mailpieces With Incomplete Shipping Papers**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Package Testing**
  - ▶ **Independent Testing Facility (24 months)**
    - ▶ **Credentials Upon Request**
  - ▶ **No Contents Released**
  - ▶ **Packaging Effectiveness Maintained**
  - ▶ **Medical Professional Packages May Not Use USPS Approved Preprimaries**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Tests**
  - ▶ **Leak-proof (One Primary Tested)**
    - ▶ **Primary – 3 psi 5 Minutes**
      - **Air Leaking From Closure Not a Failure if Water Does Not Leak Out Around Lid When Upside Down**
  - ▶ **Stacking Test (One Mailpiece Tested)**
    - ▶ **49 CFR 178.606**
      - **Mailpiece Must Maintain Shape**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Tests Continued**
  - ▶ **Vibration Test (One Mailpiece Tested)**
    - ▶ 49 CFR 178.608
    - ▶ **No Rupture, Cracking, Splitting Primary**
  - ▶ **Wet Drop (Five Mailpieces Tested)**
    - ▶ 49 CFR 178.609e
    - ▶ **No Rupture, Cracking, Splitting of Primary**
    - ▶ **No Penetration of Primary**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Tests Continued**
  - ▶ **Cold Drop Test (Five Mailpieces Tested)**
    - ▶ 49 CFR 178.609f
      - ▶ **No Rupture, Cracking, Splitting Primary**
      - ▶ **No Penetration of Primary**
  - ▶ **Impact Test (One Mailpiece Tested)**
    - ▶ 49 CFR 178.609h
      - ▶ **No Rupture, Cracking, Splitting of Primary**
      - ▶ **No Penetration of Primary**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Tests Continued**
  - ▶ **Puncture-resistant**
    - ▶ **No Penetration of Primary at Any Time During Testing**
  - ▶ **Temperature Test**
    - ▶ **Must Maintain Integrity at 0°F and 120 °F**
  - ▶ **Absorbency Test**
    - ▶ **Primary Container 150 ml**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Tests Continued**
  - ▶ **Watertight Test**
    - ▶ **Secondary System**
    - ▶ **No Water Leak when Turned Upside**

# Medical Waste by Mail

- **Suspension of Authorization**
  - ▶ **Can Be Immediate**
    - ▶ **Recall Containers**
    - ▶ **Notify Customers**
    - ▶ **Suspend Sales and Distribution**
    - ▶ **Collect Identified Containers From Distributors, Consumers, and the Postal Service without Using The Mail**



# *The End*

*Bert Olsen*

*Mailing Standards*

*[Herbert.olsen@usps.gov](mailto:Herbert.olsen@usps.gov)*

*202.268.7276*