

ICS 11.020;13.030.30

ISBN 0-626-14901-0

SANS 10248:2004

Edition 2

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Management of healthcare waste

Published by Standards South Africa
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www.stansa.co.za
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standards
SouthAfrica
(a division of SABS)

SANS 10248:2004
Edition 2

Table of changes

| Change No. | Date | Scope |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | |

Abstract

Specifies criteria for the segregation, collection, movement, storage and disposal of waste materials within health care.

Keywords

chemicals, cytotoxicity tests, disposal, handling, hazardous substances, hospitals, incinerators, labels, recycling, waste disposal, waste handling.

Foreword

This South African standard was approved by National Committee StanSA SC 5140.06M, *National committee for dangerous goods standards – Disposal of clinical waste*, in accordance with procedures of Standards South Africa, in compliance with annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement.

This edition cancels and replaces the first revision (SABS 0248:1993).

Owing to the fact that information in respect of names and addresses of competent authorities and certification authorities dealing with dangerous goods is subject to change, details of the competent authorities and certification authorities are given in a general advice sheet provided with this standard. This advice sheet will be updated every six months and it is the responsibility of the competent authority/certification authority to notify Standards South Africa of any changes. The advice sheet will be available, free of charge, from the Standards Sales Department of Standards South Africa.

Annex A is for information only.

Introduction

This standard presents the basic elements of the management of healthcare waste. In this respect certain issues are considered to be of importance for successful application of this standard, namely

- a) the need to deal with the management aspects of healthcare waste in addition to the technical operation of healthcare waste disposal,
- b) the need for a document suitable for audit purposes that can be administered over a broad range of healthcare facilities which may have greatly varying resources,
- c) the need to control the potential for the spread of infectious diseases that can place the public and especially waste disposal workers at risk, and
- d) the need for guidelines covering the entire cycle, including waste minimization, point of use disposal through internal and external transport to final treatment and disposal.

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