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Edition 1

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Management of healthcare waste

Part 2: Management of healthcare risk waste for healthcare facilities and healthcare providers in rural and remote settings

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Edition 1

Table of changes

Change No.	Date	Scope

Foreword

This South African standard was approved by National Committee SABS TC 1087, *Disposal of healthcare waste*, in accordance with procedures of the SABS Standards Division, in compliance with annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement.

This document was published in November 2009.

This document supersedes SANS 10248:2004 (edition 2) in part.

Annex B forms an integral part of this document. Annexes A and C are for information only.

Introduction

This document was developed as a result of the difficulties that rural and remote settings encounter in the management of healthcare waste (see annex A). Certain sections in SANS 10248-1 are repeated in this part to indicate the differences. This document gives guidance and help for alternative ways in which healthcare risk waste can be managed effectively as an interim measure. Guidance is also given for emergency situations, taking into account the constraints under which some of the healthcare facilities operate. The document can be used as a step in the process of continuous improvement in the management of healthcare waste in rural and remote settings.

Exposure to healthcare risk waste can result in health risks to the public, patients, healthcare workers, waste workers and the environment. Waste management measures can reduce such risks substantially.

Effective containment of waste and safe handling measures can provide significant protection, for example,

- a) segregation can reduce the amount of healthcare waste instead of accumulating large quantities of waste;
- b) good stock management of chemicals and pharmaceuticals not only reduces waste quantities but also saves purchase costs;
- c) proper identification of healthcare risk waste packages warns healthcare personnel and waste handlers about its contents; and
- d) segregation of healthcare risk waste makes it easier to decide on the method of disposal and treatment.

Where there is a lack of infrastructure, this standard should not be used to contravene any legislative requirements or allow for any circumstances that can expose the healthcare workers, patients or the general public to the hazards of healthcare risk waste.

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Management of healthcare waste

Part 2:

Management of healthcare risk waste for healthcare facilities and healthcare providers in rural and remote settings

1 Scope

This standard specifies provisions and requirements for the safe management of healthcare risk waste for healthcare facilities and healthcare providers operating in rural and remote settings.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. Information on currently valid national and international standards can be obtained from the SABS Standards Division.

SANS 1518, *Transport of dangerous goods – Design, construction, testing, approval and maintenance of road vehicles and portable tanks.*

SANS 10228, *The identification and classification of dangerous goods for transport.*

SANS 10229-1, *Transport of dangerous goods – Packaging and large packaging for road and rail transport – Part 1: Packaging.*

SANS 10231, *Transportation of dangerous goods – Operational requirements for road vehicles.*

SANS 10232-1, *Transportation of dangerous goods – Emergency information systems – Part 1: Emergency information system for road transport.*

SANS 10232-3, *Transportation of dangerous goods – Emergency information systems – Part 3: Emergency response guides.*

SANS 10248-1, *Management of healthcare waste – Part 1: Management of healthcare risk waste from a healthcare facility.*

VC 8054, *Disinfectants and detergent-disinfectants.*