



IUPUI
**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
INDIANAPOLIS

4 September 2015

To all Laboratory Personnel at IUPUI:

In an effort to harmonize the manner in which biological waste is handled from IU laboratories in Indianapolis with the rest of the IU system and to mitigate concerns from the local waste facilities, the use of red or orange autoclave bags will be phased out and replaced with clear/translucent autoclave bags. This will include red sharps containers that will be replaced with clear/translucent sharps containers. The process to phase out and replace with clear/translucent bags will begin immediately with an anticipated transition date of October 1, 2015. Understandably, this will raise a few questions that we hope to address below.

1. Will this raise the cost for research at IUPUI?

The use of clear/translucent bags will actually lower the cost for bags in most, if not all labs, that autoclave biological waste. Sharps containers will have the same cost and in a few cases only a nominal cost increase will be seen.

2. I just purchased 2 cases of red autoclave bags. Can I use them up or can they be returned?

If the number of red autoclave bags is small enough and can be used in the next 30 days, the inventory can be depleted. The red-bagged autoclaved waste must be placed into opaque black bags prior to disposal from this point forward. Significant inventories may have an extended timeframe of 60 days using the above disposal procedure. If the autoclave bags were purchased through Fisher Scientific, arrangements have been made that allow unopened cases to be returned for credit toward the clear autoclave bags. Please contact Felix Yau of Thermo Fisher Scientific at felix.yau@thermofisher.com or (317) 513-3170 for additional information.

3. How long can continue to purchase red bags or sharps containers?

The purchase of red/orange autoclave bags and red sharps containers will no longer be permitted and all research labs are required to purchase clear/translucent autoclave bags and sharps containers effective the date of this correspondence.

4. Where can I purchase the clear/translucent bags and sharps containers?

Appropriate bags and sharps containers are available from the R3 Stockroom or from Fisher Scientific.

Bag Product numbers: 01-827A, 01-827B, 01-827D, or 14-828-150

Sharps Container Product numbers: 14-827-54A, NC0926665, 14-830-66C, or 22-037-963

If a lab wishes to purchase products from different vendors they must contact EHS. EHS will determine if those specific items qualify for use.

5. What else do I need to know?

Instructions for the placement of autoclave tape on the clear bags and sharps containers are included in the attached IUPUI Biological Waste Procedures documents.

Note: autoclave tape is to be used to close the bag and mark an “X” over the biohazard symbol. For sharps containers, autoclave tape is placed over the lid. Once autoclaved, the biological waste can enter the waste stream following previously used procedures.

Change always generates questions and concerns. These can be sent to either of us for answers or advice. Thank you for your continued compliance.

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