Medical/biohazardous waste from laboratories and animal facilities must be treated by autoclaving. These are general procedures; specific procedures must be maintained by each facility.

Each autoclave must be operated as required by the operating instructions for that specific unit. These instructions must be posted by each unit.

Medical/biohazardous waste must be autoclaved at a minimum of 121 degree Centigrade (250 degrees Fahrenheit) for a minimum of 30 minutes at 15 PSI.

Red autoclave bags and sharps containers must be placed in an autoclavable container and loaded into the autoclave. Biohazard bags and sharps containers must be labeled with the generator’s name, department, building and room. Autoclaves must not be loaded beyond approved limits.

Autoclave tape or other indicator material must be placed on each bag or sharps container prior to treatment. Autoclave tape on each container placed in the autoclave for treatment must be checked to verify color change.

Prior to autoclaving, a biohazard bag containing waste must be kept closed to prevent airborne contamination and nuisance odors. However, when autoclaving, the bag must be open to allow the steam to penetrate. Upon removal of the bag from the autoclave, it should be closed and disposed of in an opaque (black) waste bag.

It is recommended to add water to each biohazard before autoclaving.

The autoclave log must be completed by each user for each autoclave cycle. The length of time that the unit maintains a temperature at or above 121 degrees Centigrade (250 Fahrenheit) must be noted as the time at 121°C on the log. All other parameters must be noted as listed.

If the autoclave does not attain the minimum time and/or temperature, or the autoclave tape does not change color, a notation must be made in the comment section of the autoclave log. The load must then be re-autoclaved after placing new tape on the red bags or sharps containers. If minimum time and temperature is not attained on the second cycle, users must contact the person responsible for maintenance of the unit to initiate repairs. Waste should then be treated at the alternate autoclave facility.

After autoclave bags have sufficiently cooled to handle, dispose in solid waste container. All sharps containers must be collected for disposal. Call EH&S for pickup or deliver to the departmental collection location.

Thermometers must be calibrated annually and a written record must be maintained. This should be done by an authorized autoclave service company during routine servicing.

Monthly *Bacillus sterothermophilus* tests must be performed in conjunction with a biological control as described in section V.B> of the Medical Waste Management Act. Results of tests and controls must be maintained.

All records including logs, calibration results and *Bacillus sterothermophilus* tests must be kept for a minimum of three years. Logs and records storage location must be designated in section V.A.5. of the Medical Waste Management Plan and be available upon request during inspections.