

Chemical Waste Disposal Procedure

1. Introduction

The University has a legal obligation under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to control hazards and risks associated with hazardous chemicals within the workplace. In addition, the University must comply with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 regarding the disposal of regulated waste.

2. Purpose & Objectives

This procedure applies to all staff, students, volunteers, and visitors that store, use, generate or handle laboratory and other chemical waste while undertaking activities at or for the University.

3. Scope

This procedure outlines the requirements for the disposal of laboratory and other chemical waste to minimize reactivity, toxicity or risk to persons or the environment during collection, storage, and transportation prior to disposal.

4. Definitions and Terms

Dangerous Goods are substances, mixtures, or articles that, because of their physical, chemical (physicochemical) or acute toxicity properties, present an immediate hazard to people, property, or the environment. They are assigned to specific classes in accordance with the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road & Rail, (ADG) Code.

5. Procedures

a) Disposal to Sewer via Waste Sinks

In some cases, it is

The waste tanks are pumped out by a waste contractor on a regular basis. The level of waste in these tanks is monitored via the Building Management System (BMS). Campus Life (CLF) monitors waste levels in the holding tanks via the BMS and arranges collection as required.

c) Disposal to Atmosphere (Evaporation)

It may be possible to dispose of vapors or gases using fume cupboards, depending on the nature of the chemical. Refer to the relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

This method is limited to non-toxic, non-dangerous substances and in minimal quantities, which are not combustible, and do not present health or environmental hazards.

d) Inactivation / neutralization by Chemical Reaction

Some substances can be inactivated or neutralized by chemical reaction. Refer to the SDS or standard chemical methodologies to confirm this procedure. A Risk Assessment and appropriate training must be conducted prior to the activity being carried out.

e) Disposal via Commercial Contractor

Substances that cannot be disposed of via the methods listed above must be appropriately segregated and stored in preparation for collection by a specialist chemical waste contractor.

Notification:

The Senior Specialist - Chemicals and Radiation, within the Health & Safety team coordinates with the waste disposal contractor (at least a month prior to requiring a pickup) for a waste collection. Generally waste collections are undertaken quarterly in the first week of March, June, September, and December from each campus as required.

Upon confirmation that the service is scheduled, the local Chemical Waste Contact Personnel in Schools, Centers, and Institutes at each of the _____ campuses are notified by email of the proposed service date. The Local Chemical Waste Contact Personnel in turn notify the technical support and research staff contacts in their areas.

Storage - prior to collection:

Prior to collection the waste should be segregated according to the dangerous goods class or division and chemical compatibility, e.g., flammable, corrosive, or oxidizing

