



The Italian law DPR 254/2003 regulates the medical waste management. They are special waste and they must be managed in a different way compared to the common “dangerous waste”.

Firstly the medical waste must be identified precisely for what they are:

Any material contaminate by:

- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents from laboratories
- Surgery waste from infectious bodies
- Waste from patients admitted to isolation wards
- Waste contaminated with infected patients undergoing dialysis
- Infected lab animals
- Other objects come in contact with infected people or animals

Carcasses of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.

None of these medical waste must be discharged into sewer or mixed with domestic waste, to prevent the spread of possible infection to population.

Articles n. 8 and 10 of the DPR n.254 regulates the: “Temporary storage, preliminary storage, collection and transportation of hazardous and infectious medical waste "and" Disposal of hazardous and infectious medical waste”.

Article 8, in particular, reads as follows: *“il deposito preliminare, la raccolta ed il trasporto dei rifiuti sanitari pericolosi a rischio infettivo devono essere effettuati utilizzando apposito imballaggio a perdere, anche flessibile, recante la scritta «Rifiuti sanitari pericolosi a rischio infettivo» e il simbolo del rischio biologico o, se si tratta di rifiuti taglienti o pungenti, apposito imballaggio rigido a perdere, resistente alla puntura, recante la scritta «Rifiuti sanitari pericolosi a*

rischio infettivo taglienti e pungenti», contenuti entrambi nel secondo imballaggio rigido esterno, eventualmente riutilizzabile previa idonea disinfezione ad ogni ciclo d'uso, recante la scritta «Rifiuti sanitari pericolosi a rischio infettivo»

The hazardous medical waste, as mentioned previously, can't be disposed with the other waste. Article. 10 in fact provides that “ ... the hazardous and infectious medical waste must be disposed by incineration in authorized plants ...” according to the Italian law n. 22 - 22 February 1997.