

Guidance on Disposal of Unserviceable / Expired Medicines for Licensed Pharmaceutical Traders

A. Introduction

1. This document serves to provide guidance on the disposal of unserviceable or expired medicines (“medicines”) for pharmaceutical traders licensed under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134), the Antibiotics Ordinance (Cap. 137) and/or the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap. 138) (“licensed traders”) of the Laws of Hong Kong.
2. Licensed traders should ensure that the disposal procedures of medicines (chemical wastes) are in compliance with the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). For more information, please visit Environmental Protection Department (EPD)’s website (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/>) or consult booklets <A Guide to the Registration of Chemical Waste Producer> and <A Guide to the Chemical Waste Control Scheme> that are available at EPD Local Control Offices.

B. General steps:

1. Apply to the EPD for registration as a Chemical Waste Producer. Application form (Form EPD129) for registration is available at offices of EPD or its website (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/>). A certificate with a waste producer (WP) number would be issued to the applicant.
2. Sort medicines into Part A and Part B chemical wastes.

Part A chemical waste includes:

Part 1 poisons and antibiotic preparations.

Part B chemical waste includes:

Part 2 poisons, “non-poison” pharmaceutical products.

For dangerous drugs, please inform Licensing and Compliance Division of Drug Office of the Department of Health in advance in writing for arrangement of an inspector to oversee the disposal of dangerous drugs.

3. For disposal of Part A chemical waste, a chemical waste producer should apply to the EPD for disposal using Form EPD132. A direction (Form EPD131) for disposal would be issued to the applicant. For disposal of Part B chemical waste, ignore this Step.
4. Contact one of the authorized chemical waste collectors (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/epic/english/epichome.html>). The licensed trader should at the same time furnish a list of all would-be-disposed medicines with classifications as to whether they belong to Part A or Part B, solid or liquid or aerosol preparations, to the authorized chemical waste collector. (see **Note 1**)
5. Obtain container(s) for chemical waste from the authorized chemical waste collector. Separate containers should be obtained for solid, liquid and aerosol wastes.
6. Dispose of chemical waste into relevant containers. Bottles of liquid with volume larger than 50ml should be emptied out into the container.
7. Contact the engaged collector for collection.
8. Obtain a “trip ticket” from the collector at the time of collection (see **Note 2**) and retain it for future reference.

C. Notes:

1. Liquid waste includes injectables over 50ml. Liquid preparations less than 50ml in volume are treated as solid waste.
2. Except Fridays, collection would normally be arranged within 72 hours from the time of notification.
3. On-line application is also available at <https://www.epd.gov.hk/>.
4. The charging bill would normally be posted to the waste producer within 28 days from the day of collection.