

SMILE AND CARE

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BIO-MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN COVID PANDEMIC

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Bio-medical waste means any waste, which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or in research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biologicals. In the wake of the Covid -19 Pandemic, effective management of Biomedical waste has become an even more important issue than ever before, in addition to it being a challenging one. Bio-medical waste can be hazardous, toxic, and even lethal, because of its potential of diseases transmission. With the Corona virus outbreak still raging, one of the other major fallouts has been the surge in generation of hazardous bio-medical waste (BMW).

Segregation, collection, pre-treatment, Intramural transportation, and storage is the responsibility of the health care facility. While treatment and disposal are primary responsibility of Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) except for the labs and highly infectious waste, which is required to be pre-treated by the healthcare facility. While the requirements for handling Covid waste have been stepped up for Medical facilities, many other facilities, and establishments, that have little or no experience or expertise in managing Bio Medical Waste have also sprung up. These include

malls, cinemas, hotels restaurants, residential colonies etc.

In order to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, guidelines for handling, treatment, and disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients – Rev. 4, has been promulgated on 17 July 2020, which are required to be followed by all the stakeholders including isolation wards, quarantine centers, sample collection centers, laboratories, urban local bodies and common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities, in addition to existing practices under BMW Management Rules, 2016. It provides a revised guidance on segregation of general solid waste and biomedical waste from quarantine centers/home-care/healthcare facilities treating COVID-19 patients and to recommend on disposal of PPEs.

With reference to our experiences from COVID pandemic so far, we need to follow a three-pronged approach:

1. Firstly, apart from hospitals and clinics, households' bio-medical waste management is the need of the hour and appropriate systems need to be created to support this.
2. Secondly, in smaller towns, there are not sufficient bio-medical waste management facilities, need to upscale the same.
3. Thirdly, masks and personal protective equipment (PPEs) are a new normal, however, usage of single-use masks and other PPE equipment should be restricted to frontline staff.

To conclude, in India, we do have state-of-the- science policies for management of Bio-medical waste, but they need to be enforced strictly and the gaps need to be filled on a war-footing!

*"By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO₂ emissions, and destroying our biodiversity, **we are killing our planet.** Let us face it, **there is no planet B.**" Emmanuel Macron, President of France*

RECENT UPDATES

CGAS completed an Environmental Due Diligence for three Common Hazardous Waste Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (CHW TSDF). This provided the team hands-on experience on landfill design and operations.

In line with our strategy of Continuous Professional Development (CPD), our team member, Mr. Narendra Patil completed his Lead Auditor Course on ISO 45001:2018. To provide uninterrupted delivery to our clients, we ensure that we have at least two people qualified on each subject of service delivery. For ISO 45001:2018, we now have two team members-Narendra Patil and T S Sriram who have qualified Lead Auditor Courses.

LEARNING OF THE MONTH

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Compliance – the Corporate buzzword!

Today, in most professionally run organizations, more so with those operating in Multinational environment, the buzz word is “Compliance”.

Compliance encompasses the complete business landscape covering the following areas:

Commercial Compliance: Ensures that employees conduct the business in the most ethical manner and with integrity. Many areas like anti-corruption, anti-trust, code of conduct, conflict of interest, data privacy, Govt. interaction etc. get covered under this head.

EH&S compliance: Ensures that the business operations do not adversely affect the environment and complies with all laid down regulations in this regard. In addition, this compliance also ensures the health and safety of employees is not compromised in any manner while running of the operations.

Product compliance: Ensures the chemical substances used in the products or its inputs is in accordance with government regulations and industry standards such that the products

manufactured do not in any manner causes adverse effects on the environment even in the long run.

Security Compliance: Ensures protecting people, assets, information of the company and reputation of the organization from lapse on any of these fronts.

Human Resource Compliance: Ensure that employees receive fair wages, benefits and protection and decent conditions at work.

Social Compliance: Includes its responsibility towards community and all stakeholders at large.

Companies that strive to excel on the compliance front have specialized teams supporting the business on these fronts. These companies also have a well laid down process to continually assess the gaps through appropriate risk assessments and to bridge the gaps by implementing necessary controls, through knowledge sharing, education & training and by rendering necessary coaching/advising to the business teams as required.

While it appears to some that the cost of ensuring compliance outweighs the benefit, the cost of non-compliance far outweighs the cost of having a well laid down process of ensuring compliance. The company's reputation is at stake due to non-compliance, and one cannot put a price on this loss of reputation which could wipe out several years of profits that the company made for the past several years and could even lead to closure of business at times.

Views expressed here are of the Author and do not reflect official opinion and/or endorsement by Corporate Governance Advisory Services. He can be reached for any clarifications at girish.kumar@molex.com.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TECHNICAL DUE DILIGENCE

We are looking for professionals who want to pursue their career in a growing field of Technical Due Diligence both in Operations and Environment, Health & Safety areas. They will be trained under our team of six professionals, each of whom have experience of more than 25 years in multiple countries

Smile News

Karnataka Startup's AI Technology Helps 5500 Silk Farmers Increase Income By 30%
<https://www.thebetterindia.com/253969/reshaman-di-agri-tech-startup-silk-farmers-karnataka-mayank-tiwari-utkarsh-apoorv-nift-sericulture-mulberry-iot-ai-business-technology-agriculture-success-story-him16/>

Care News

Meet the Assam doctor, who has changed nearly 2 lakh lives!
<https://www.dailyrounds.org/blog/char-ging-50-rupees-for-consultation-this-assam-doctor-has-changed-nearly-2-lakh-lives/>

EHS News

Waterworks under MGNREGA have infused fresh life into farming sector.
<https://www.cseindia.org/waterworks-under-mgnrega-have-infused-fresh-life-into-our-farming-sector-say-villagers-in-gujarat-and-maharashtra-in-a-down-to-earth-cse-survey-10748>

EDITORIAL DESK



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MESSAGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a traumatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. We must recognize this opportunity to build back better. Only then can we protect the health, livelihoods, food security and nutrition of all people, and ensure that our 'new normal' is a better one.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ADVISORY SERVICES

To Make “Smile and Care” a Key Enabler in the global arena of Corporate Governance

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