

MEDICAL WASTE



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Transition from Limited Quantity Hauler (LQH) to Small Quantity Generator (SQG)

On September 25th, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 333, making revisions to the California Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA). The revisions included the removal of section 118030 and the addition of section 117946. Effective January 1, 2015, San Bernardino County no longer issues Limited Quantity Hauling Exemption (LQHE) permits and has inactivated existing permits. The Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) defers to the US Department of Transportation regulations regarding transportation of medical waste, referenced in the Code of Federal Regulations ([CFR, Title 49, Section, 172.200](#)). A portion of this section allows for the transportation of up to 35.2 pounds of properly labeled and packaged medical waste without the need for approval or permitting as a hazardous waste hauler.

What is a Small Quantity Generator?

According to the MWMA, "medical waste generator" means **any person** whose act or process produces medical waste, and "small quantity generator" means a medical waste generator that generates less than 200 pounds per month of medical waste. Examples of businesses that generate medical waste include: Medical and dental offices, clinics, hospitals, surgery centers, laboratories, research laboratories, unlicensed health facilities, chronic dialysis clinics, education and research facilities, veterinary clinics/hospitals and pet shops.

Any medical waste generator generating less than 200 pounds of medical waste per month is required by law to obtain a valid SQG health permit. Therefore, a facility that previously held a LQHE permit must now apply for a SQG permit. The permit application and annual permit fee of \$114.00 for a SQG facility are due upon renewal of the existing LQHE permit. [Click here](#) to view our current fee schedule.



Proper Disposal of Medical Waste

DEHS would like to remind all medical waste generators to properly dispose of all medical waste. Generators are encouraged to educate employees on how to recognize medical wastes according to MWMA Section 117690, and to properly contain and store medical wastes according to MWMA Section 118275. Please visit the [DEHS website](#) for detailed information and possible disposal options.

DEHS is currently taking measures to ensure all SQG in San Bernardino County are permitted. Anyone found to be in violation of the permitting requirement will be subject to penalties (including fines and/or imprisonment) pursuant to MWMA Section 118340.

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Environmental Health Today



Salud Ambiental Para Hoy



If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lana Cao or Marie Jean-Baptiste, Health Education Specialists, at 800-442-2283 We can also be reached by email at Lana.Cao@dph.sbcounty.gov or Marie.Jean-Baptiste@dph.sbcounty.gov.

We appreciate the effort you make to protect the public's health in our County.