

**Autoclave Bags Are Going Clear!**

Everyone on campus that utilizes autoclaves for waste treatment prior to disposal will be required to use plain and clear autoclave bags as of July 31, 2014. This is in order to comply with Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Department of Environmental Protection regulations. The University will *not* be allowed to use orange or red autoclave bags after this date. The autoclave bags must also be “plain” which means that there may not be a biohazard symbol or the words “biohazard/biohazardous” printed on the bag.

University compliance with the change to clear autoclave bags is mandatory as failure to comply may result in a “Notice of Non-compliance” and fines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and/or the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

This does NOT affect the waste that is sent off campus for incineration (Bio-boxes, Sharps, Stericycle) as this waste must be in red bags until arrival at the incinerator.



**NO RED OR ORANGE AUTOCLAVE BAGS**

**NO AUTOCLAVE BAGS WITH A BIOHAZARD SYMBOL**

<b>What is NEW?</b>	<b>What was PAST protocol?</b>
Clear autoclave bags	Red or orange autoclave bags
Plain autoclave bags and no “Biohazard” markings	Biohazard symbol was present on bags
Lower bag prices (~\$1.00 per bag!)	Higher bag prices (~\$2.00 per bag)
Biohazard containment for bags until they are autoclaved, i.e.: use of a step can with a biohazard label or a bin labelled	Use of red or orange bags were used to denote the hazard
Autoclaved waste labels with the phrase “in accordance with MA-DPH and MA-DEP regulations” on them	DPH and DEP not included on label
Autoclave Waste Mgt. Guidelines Poster at autoclaves	Guidance was on-line
Increased validation oversight of spore testing and log sheet entries by EH&S	Random spot checks were conducted

**What stays the same?**

- UMass generated log sheets
- Using autoclave tape or an indicator on the bags to determine if temperature was adequate.
- Using Prospores© monthly to verify kill of heat resistant organisms
- Placing the autoclaved waste label on the cooled autoclave bag and then placing the autoclaved bag inside an opaque trash bag for disposal. Do not label the trash bag.
- Disposal of these bags is in regular waste which goes to a landfill.

**How do you get started?**

- Remove all red, orange and biohazardous labeled bags from your laboratory spaces. These may NOT be disposed of in regular trash. EH&S will make arrangements to recycle them properly. Red, orange and biohazard marked bags will be collected via a separate hazardous waste pick-up request, just like a sharps container. Type “red autoclave bags” on the description line. Please use a single request form for “red autoclave bags” and fill out a separate request for sharps, box or chemical waste pick-up requests: <https://cems.unh.edu/umass/CEMS/RequestRemoval>
- If you have a clean and unopened box of red/orange autoclave bags, you have purchased them since May 1, 2014, and have a Fisher Scientific order number; Fisher will take your box back and issue a credit. This is for a limited time only, so don't delay.
- Buy clear autoclave bags for your lab by ordering online or by picking them up in the Fisher Stockroom:

Item Name	Fisher #	#/Box	Size
Autoclave bags/clear	01-814-2	200	24" x 30"
Autoclave bags/clear	01-814-3	200	24" x 36"

- EH&S will also be leaving a supply of clear autoclave bags at each autoclave that has been designated as autoclaving waste. EH&S is doing this “one time only” to help the change-over of bags get under way
- EH&S will be leaving the new Autoclaved Waste Labels (with DEP and DPH) on them at autoclaves as well (Please discard any old labels)
- Refer to the new poster that will be placed in all of the autoclave locations (that process waste)

### **Where can I get help?**

Contact	Title	Phone #	Email Address
Judy LaDuc	Biosafety Officer	413-545-7293	jladuc@ehs.umass.edu
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