

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: JDunn@Dornoch.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 6:11 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR); Doyle, Glenn (CDC/NIOSH/EID)
Subject: 135 - HCWorker Comments

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Comments

Hello,

I did not notice concern addressing the aerosolization generated from liquid infectious waste. Areas of concern from flushing a toilet or hopper after emptying infectious fluids or splashing and splattering of infectious fluids caused by mis handling of the fluids. These concerns in hospitals are growing as the sharps issues have grown nation wide.

Technologies are being developed to address these issues. There are at least seven different technologies developed over the past ten plus years to meet the demands by hospitals and surgery centers. Improper autoclaving of these infectious fluids in an effort to "treat" can generate significant healthcare issues.

Improper handling of the liquid infectious wastes is addressed by OSHA, DOT, EPA, and most of the State DOH. You have addressed smoke plume as an issue. I applaud you for focusing on this issue. Liquid infectious waste can be as much as 50% of the total infectious waste generated by ORs,L&Ds, and other hospital departments. Please give this issue equal time.

Thank you,
James Dunn RN