

Engineering College, Ajmer

E- Lecturer -2 (PPT)

On

Biomedical Waste Management

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TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF HOSPITAL WASTES

- The Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility should treat the bio-medical waste as per BMWM Rules and as per the authorisation granted by the prescribed authority. The CBWTF (Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility) should have the following treatment facilities:

- **INCINERATION**

Incineration is a controlled combustion process where waste is completely oxidized and harmful microorganisms present in it are destroyed/ denatured under high temperature. The guidelines for "Design & Construction Requirements of Bio-medical Waste Incinerators" by CPCB from time to time shall be followed for selecting/or augmenting the incinerator.

- **PLASMA PYROLYSIS**

Plasma Pyrolysis is an alternate to incinerator, Plasma Pyrolysis treatment technology can be installed for disposal of bio-medical waste categories as per BMW Rules wherein destruction of bio-medical waste is similar to incineration can be achieved. In case of plasma pyrolysis, waste is treated at high temperature under controlled condition to form gases like methane, hydrogen and carbon monoxide which are subjected to combustion (oxidation) in secondary chamber. In the plasma pyrolysis process waste is converted into small clinker which can be disposed in secured landfills.

- **AUTOCLAVING**

Autoclaving is a low-heat thermal process where steam is brought into direct contact with waste in a controlled manner and for sufficient duration to disinfect the wastes as stipulated under the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules. For ease and safety in operation, the system should be horizontal type and exclusively designed for treatment of bio-medical waste. For optimum results, pre-vacuum based system be preferred against the gravity type system. It shall have tamper-proof control panel with efficient display and recording devices for recording critical parameters such as time, temperature, pressure, date and batch number etc. as required under the BMW Rules.

- **HYDROCLAVING**

Hydroclaving is similar to that of autoclaving except that the waste is subjected to indirect heating by applying steam in the outer jacket. The waste is continuously tumbled in the chamber during the process.

- **MICROWAVING**

In microwaving, microbial inactivation occurs as a result of the thermal effect of electromagnetic radiation spectrum lying between the frequencies 300 and 300,000MHz. Microwave heating is an inter-molecular heating process. The heating occurs inside the waste material in the presence of steam.

- **CHEMICAL DISINFECTION**

Though chemical disinfection or alternates as stipulated under the BMWM Rules is also an option for treatment of certain categories of biomedical waste such as glass waste but looking at the volume of waste to be disinfected at the CBWTF and the pollution load associated with the use of chemical disinfectants, the chemical disinfection for treatment of bio-medical waste as part of a CBWTF may be used sparingly or avoided as far as possible.

- **DRY HEAT STERILIZATION**

This is the additional option for treatment of waste sharps as stipulated under the BMWM Rules. In this method, waste sharps are treated using dry heat (hot air) at a temperature not less than 1850 C, at least for a residence period of 150 minutes in each cycle (with sterilization period of 90 minutes).

- **SHREDDER:**

Shredding is a process by which waste are de-shaped or cut into smaller pieces so as to make the wastes unrecognizable. It helps in prevention of reuse of bio-medical waste and also acts as identifier that the wastes have been disinfected and are safe to dispose off. A shredder to be used for shredding bio-medical waste shall confirm to the following minimum requirements:

- (i) The shredder for bio-medical waste shall be of robust design with minimum maintenance requirement;
- (ii) The shredder should be properly designed and covered to avoid spillage and dust generation. It should be designed such that it has minimum manual handling;
- (iii) The hopper and cutting chamber of the shredder should be so designed to accommodate the waste bag full of bio-medical waste;
- (iv) The shredder blade should be highly resistant and should be able to shred waste sharps, syringes, scalpels, blades, plastics, catheters, intravenous sets/ bottles, blood bags, gloves, bandages etc. It should be able to handle/ shred wet waste, especially after microwave/ autoclave/hydroclave;
- (v) The shredder blade shall be of non-corrosive and hardened steel;

- (vi) The shredder should be so designed and mounted so as not to generate dust, high noise & vibration;
- (vii) If hopper lid or door of collection box is opened, the shredder should stop automatically for safety of operator;
- (viii) In case of shock-loading (non-shreddable material in the hopper), there should be a mechanism to automatically stop the shredder to avoid any emergency/accident;
- (ix) In case of overload or jamming, the shredder should have mechanism of reverse motion of shaft to avoid any emergency/accident;
- (x) The motor shall be connected to the shredder shaft through a gear mechanism, to ensure low rpm and safety;
- (xi) The unit shall be suitably designed for operator safety, mechanical as well as electrical;
- (xii) The shredder should have low rotational speed (maximum 50 rpm). This will ensure better gripping and cutting of the bio-medical waste;
- (xiii) The discharge height (from discharge point to ground level) shall be sufficient (minimum 3 feet) to accommodate the containers for collection of shredded material. This would avoid spillage of shredded material;
- (xiv) The minimum capacity of the motor attached with the shredder shall be 3 KW for 50 Kg/hr, 5 KW for 100 kg/hr & 7.5 KW for 200 Kg/hr and shall be three phase induction motor. This will ensure efficient cutting of the bio-medical wastes as prescribed in the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules; and
- (xv) The shredder also should be fitted with separate 'energy meter' for recording total energy consumed for operation of this equipment.

- **SHARP PIT/ ENCAPSULATION:**

A sharp pit or a facility for sharp encapsulation in a metal container or cement concrete shall be provided for treated sharps (i.e., treatment by autoclaving or dry heat sterilization followed by shredding or mutilation). An option may also be worked out for recovery of metal from treated and shredded waste sharps within the CBWTF or iron foundries having consent to operate from the SPCBs/PCCs and located nearby, as per the conditions imposed in authorization granted under BMWM Rules by the SPCB/PCC.

A sharp pit may be of circular or rectangular shape and shall be dug and lined with cement plastered brick masonry or concrete rings. The pit should be covered with a heavy concrete slab with a provision of galvanized steel pipe projecting about 1.5 meters above the slab, with an internal diameter of up to 50 mm or 1.5 times the length of vials, whichever is more. The top opening of the steel pipe shall have a provision of locking after the treated waste sharps are disposed into the sharp pit. When the pit is full, it can be sealed completely, after another pit is prepared. In case of high water table regions (i.e., where water table is less than 6 metres beneath the bottom of the sharp pit), a tank with above mentioned arrangements shall be made above the ground.

- **NON-BURN TECHNOLOGY:**

Non-incineration technologies for disposal of bio-medical waste are adopted in some of the developed countries. Non-incineration technology comprises of shredding and disinfection by autoclaving/microwaving or chemical treatment. The treated waste can be disposed along with municipal solid waste in sanitary landfills or through waste to energy plants. Such option can also be adopted in places where the sanitary landfill or waste to energy plant for disposal of municipal solid waste is available. Such technology is permitted only after prior approval of MoEF & CC and only after obtaining authorization under the BMWWM Rules from the respective SPCB/PCC for the purpose of carrying out trial runs for assessment of efficacy of the treatment equipment.

- **VEHICLE/CONTAINERS WASHING FACILITY:**

Every time a vehicle is unloaded, the vehicle and empty waste containers shall be washed properly and disinfected. Washing can be carried out in an open area but on an impermeable surface and liquid effluent so generated shall be conveyed and treated in an effluent treatment plant. The impermeable area shall be of appropriate size so as to avoid spillage of liquid during washing.

- **EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT:**

A suitable Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) shall be installed to ensure that liquid effluent generated during the process of washing containers, vehicles, floors etc. is treated and reused after treatment. Proper treatment of waste water shall be ensured in case of zero discharge by recirculation of treated waste water for scrubbing. ETP may have treatment unit operations comprising collection tank, O & G trap, chemical dosing cum mixing (Flash and slow), coagulation chamber, primary settling tank (s), biological treatment process, secondary settling tank, pressure filter and activated carbon filter, pH Correction tank (wherever recirculation of treated water is practiced) so as to comply with the liquid discharge standards stipulated under the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. ETP may also have the following provisions:

- (i) separate 'energy meter' so as to know total consumption of electricity for operation of the machinery attached with the ETP.
- (ii) pH meter so as to know pH level of treated water as well as pH level of treated water used for recirculated or recycling in APCD attached with the incinerator or any utility within the CBWTF.
- (iii) A 'magnetic flow meter' should also be fitted at all the water supply extraction points of the CBWTF as well as the outlet to know the total wastewater treated for further end use or discharge in compliance to the BMW Rules.
- (iv) Provision of 'press filter' to reduce the moisture content of the ETP Sludge or it may be dried in 'sludge drying bed'. After removal of moisture content or drying, same need to be disposed off in an environmentally sound manner depending upon the hazardous constituents present in it as per Hazardous and Other Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. In case, ETP sludge contains metal contents within the prescribed limits as per Hazardous & Other Waste (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, such ETP sludge shall be given to CBWTF for incineration or to hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF) for disposal in secured landfill.

COLOR CODING FOR SEGREGATION OF BIOMEDICAL WASTE: -

COLOR	WASTE	TREATMENT
Yellow	Human & Animal anatomical waste / Micro-biology waste and soiled cotton/dressings/linen/beddings etc.	Incineration / Deep burial
Red	Tubing's, Catheters, IV sets.	Autoclaving / Microwaving / Chemical treatment
Blue / White	Waste sharps (Needles, Syringes, Scalpels, blades etc.)	Autoclaving / Microwaving / Chemical treatment & Destruction / Shredding
Black	Discarded medicines/cytotoxic drugs, Incineration ash, Chemical waste.	Disposal in secured landfill