



DOES YOUR CLINICAL WASTE BAG AUDIT TRAIL WORK

There are two stages to the management of clinical waste:-

- Bagging and movement within the hospital
- Collection from the hospital and disposal

The Environmental Protection Act of 1990 made it unlawful to dispose of clinical waste without a waste management license

The Hazardous Waste Regulations of 2005 were also introduced to improve the regulation of the movement of clinical waste

These two legal requirements apply to the second stage and is usually the responsibility of a waste management contractor

Audit trailing of clinical waste bags was introduced in 1992 to coincide with the implimentatation of the “Duty of Care” recommendations

The objective is to enable every clinical waste bag to be tracked back to it’s point of origin in the event of a problem, e.g. spillage, stick injuries due to needles being put into clinical waste bags, etc.

Since 1992 there has been a growing demand for printed tags to seal clinical waste bags and create a recognisable, two stage audit trail, with approximately 50% of Trusts using this method:-

- The firs two lines of text usually identify the Trust and quote a contact telephone number – this allows tracking to the hospital
- The third line is a sequential serial number which means that each clinical waste bag has a unique identity

By recording the batches of serial numbers when issued to each department using Talismans Clinical Waste Audit Trail management system an audit trail has been created, which allows every clinical waste bag to be

tracked back, firstly to the hospital, then to the department of origin

Other methods are currently used, but they have potential flaws:-

- Printed tape – different tape is needed for each department and it is frequently more tape than necessary is used, making it inefficient
- Pre-printed labels – these can frequently come away from the clinical waste bag, which means there is no audit trail
- Writing on the clinical waste bag – the audit trail is dependant on operatives doing this and relies on handwritten information being legible

For more detailed information of the Talisman range of tags for sealing and tracking clinical waste bags visit our web site

www.talismansecurityproducts.co.uk or call us on 01684584200