

**Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005
Follow-up Actions Required of the Administration**

Clinical waste collection arrangement for outlying islands

At present, amongst the dozen or so commercial waste collectors providing clinical waste collection service, some are providing collection service to remote areas such as Tung Chung and Discovery Bay. Since mid-January 2006, one of the waste collectors has started to collect clinical waste from the hospitals and clinics of the Hospital Authority located at three outlying islands (Cheung Chau, Lamma Island and Peng Chau) on a regular basis. The waste collector has also approached the private clinics and other clinical waste producers on the outlying islands to provide door-to-door collection service. We will continue to liaise with the service providers and waste producers to ensure that such service is available after the enactment of the law.

Consultation with the Hong Kong Medical Association on the wording of the CSAs to empower the Director of Environmental Protection to define newly emerged infectious waste and which may pose significant health risk as “other waste” in Group 6 clinical waste in Schedule 8

2. We have consulted the Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA) on the proposal for the Director of Environmental Protection to specify Group 6 clinical wastes through a gazette notice if such wastes, in his opinion, are likely to be contaminated with infectious materials from patients falling within such case definition as specified in the notice, and may pose a significant health risk. The HKMA has no objection to the proposal and a copy of our correspondence exchange with the HKMA is shown in the Annex.

**February 2006
Environmental Protection Department**



會 學 醫 港 香
The Hong Kong Medical Association

FOUNDED IN 1920 INCORPORATED IN 1980 AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
MEMBER OF WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA & OCEANIA

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2005 - 2006

10 February 2006

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Dr. Choi Kin
蔡堅醫生

Your ref.: EP 170/3P/051

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Dear Mr. Ha,

LEGCO REPRESENTATIVE 立法會代表

Dr. Hon Kwok Ka-ki
郭家麒醫生

Waste Disposal Amendment Bill (2005) The Bill

I write to inform you that the HKMA Council had a discussion last night and resolved that the Association had no objection to the proposed definition of Group 6 Clinical Waste as stipulated in your letter dated 25 January 2006.

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However, the HKMA Council would like to re-emphasize our concern about the provision of clinical waste collection service for the private practitioners working in outlying islands. Please make sure that there will not be a shortage of clinical waste collection service in these areas after the enactment of the law.

If you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Sophia Lau on 2527 8452.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Cheung Hon Ming
Hon. Secretary

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25 January 2006

Dr. Choi Kin
President
Hong Kong Medical Association
Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 5th Floor
15 Hennessy Road
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Choi

Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005 (The Bill)
Definition of Group 6 Clinical Waste

The Bills Committee on the Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005 has discussed about the definition of Group 6 clinical waste as set out in the Annex. Before we set out the arrangement for defining Group 6 clinical waste through Committee stage amendments (CSAs) to the Bill, we would like to seek your views.

We have looked at several ordinances to draw reference in proposing a suitable mechanism to define "other wastes" as described under Group 6 clinical waste. Having taking into account the need for clarity and transparency, and that any person who fails to comply with the proposed regulatory control framework under the Bill may commit an offence, we propose that the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) may specify in a gazette notice

"such wastes that, in his opinion, are likely to be contaminated with infectious materials from patients falling within such case definition as specified in the notice, and may pose a significant health risk"

as Group 6 clinical waste. In forming his opinion, DEP will also consult the Department of Health.

Since the Bills Committee will start to consider the CSAs soon after the Chinese New Year, I would appreciate if you could provide your view on the proposed mechanism by 2 February 2006. If you need more details, please contact me at 2594 6112.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ha', written in a cursive style.

(David Ha)
for Director of Environmental Protection

Proposed Definition of Group 6 Clinical Waste in the Bill

Group 6 – Other Wastes

Other wastes which are likely to be contaminated with –

- (a) infectious materials (other than infectious materials referred to in Group 4): or
- (b) any clinical waste being substance, matter or thing belonging to Group 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

and which pose a significant health risk.