## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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## **GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIAL MEDICAL WASTES**

- A. The Special Medical Wastes (SMW) must be transported in a suitable container that will preclude the loss of any of the materials to the environment.
- B. The container must be properly labeled (identified) with a label approved by the Department except as may be in conflict with other State and Federal law. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) labels may be used.
- C. Shipments of SMW must be accompanied by a completed shipping paper as required by the Department of Transportation.
- D. Transfer of the SMW from the generator to the transporter to the facility shall be conducted in an environmentally safe manner. The vehicle must be attended at all times during the loading and unloading operations by competent personnel. If for any reason the vehicle operator is compelled to leave the equipment, all loading and/or unloading operations shall cease until the operator returns.
- E. Certified vehicles shall carry a copy of their Special Medical Waste Transporter Vehicle Certification listing in the cab of the vehicle. Companies are allowed to carry just the page the particular vehicle is listed on. MDE recommends that you highlight the vehicle on the listing.
- F. The vehicle operator shall compare labels and shipping paper to insure that the contents and quantities listed on the shipping paper are the same as those listed on the containers. Any discrepancies must be corrected.
- G. In the event of a spill or loss of SMW to the environment, any person engaged in the transportation of SMW shall not knowingly fail to report the incident immediately (within one hour) to the Department by phoning (866) 633-4686 including holidays and weekends. The person and vehicle involved must remain at the scene and available until clearance to leave is given by the appropriate officials. A copy of the *Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Procedures* brochure must be carried in the vehicle transporting SMW.