

Notes on the classification of infectious and non-infectious wastes

The waste types according to Chapter 18 of AVV (Ordinance on the European Waste Catalogue) are – with reference to the LAGA (Working Group of the Federal States on Waste) enforcement guide M 18 – subdivided into infectious and non-infectious wastes.

Generally, wastes are classified according to the waste codes and evaluated as to their hazardousness involved at the place where they arise and on the individual responsibility of health and research institutions (waste producers). The precautionary principle applies here, i. e. if waste potentially contains pathogens (for instance, from the treatment of patients in quarantine wards in hospitals), such waste must be classified into the hazardous waste type “wastes whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection” (WT 180103*, WT 180202*).

Medicines and chemicals are classified into hazardous resp. non-hazardous waste types according to the substances they contain.