



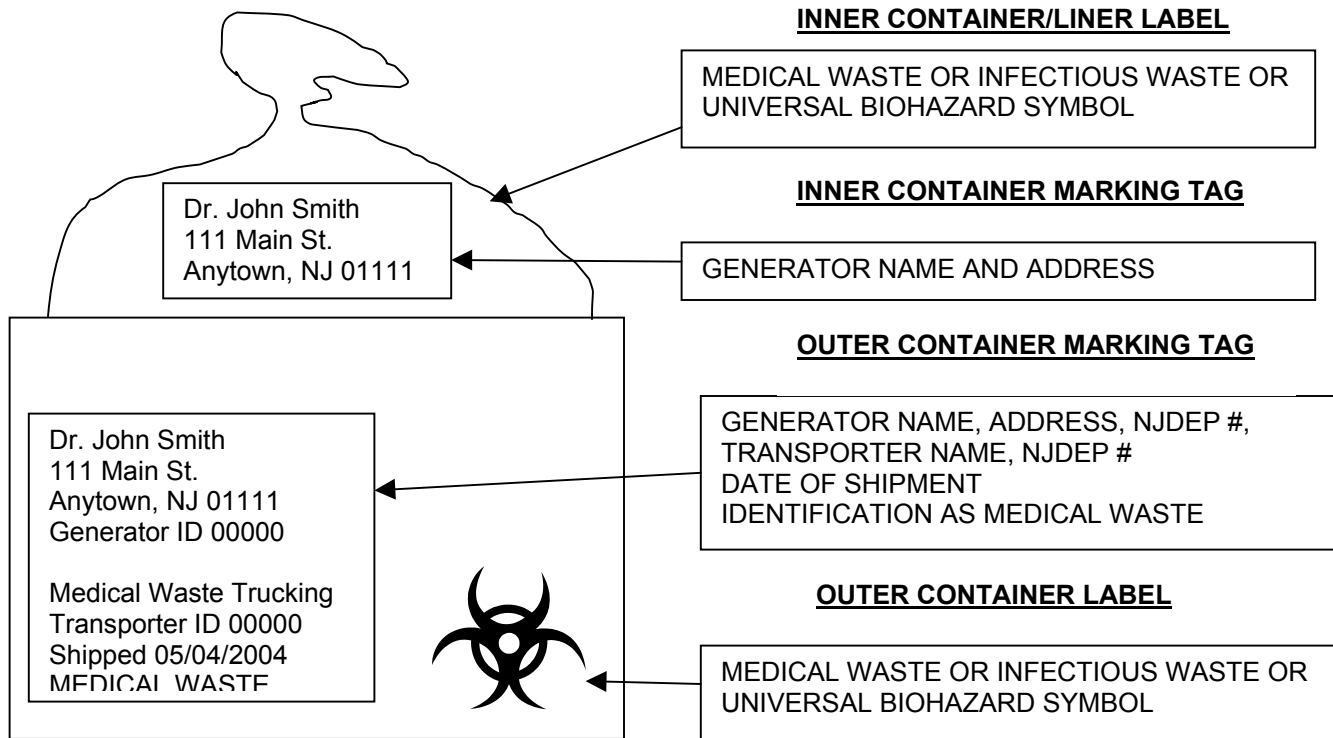
# **Top 6 Most Frequently Encountered Compliance Issues at Medical Waste Generator Sites**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a medical waste compliance sweep in Ocean County in April 2004. Upon completion of the sweep, the DEP evaluated all findings and identified the top six most frequently encountered environmental issues. This is NOT a complete list of requirements affecting medical waste generators that you need to follow but is offered to help you avoid the most common transgressions.

1. All regulated medical waste (RMW) generators, no matter how small the amount produced, must register with the DEP and pay the appropriate fees. Registration forms can be obtained from the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Bureau of Hazardous Waste Regulation, Medical Waste Generation Unit, PO Box 414, Trenton, NJ 08625-0414 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/forms.htm>.
2. All RMW generators are required to track RMW no matter how small the amount generated. The generator is responsible for obtaining and initiating the New Jersey RMW Tracking Form. These forms can be obtained from the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Bureau of Resource Recovery and Technical Programs at PO Box 414, Trenton, NJ 08625-0414 or by calling (609) 984-6620 or from your licensed RMW transporter. The generator must retain both Copy 1 (which is mailed by the destination facility back to the generator) and Copy 6, for a period of three years.
3. Any person who stores RMW on-site prior to treatment or disposal or for transport offsite must:
  - Store the RMW in a manner and location that maintains the integrity of the packaging and provides protection from the elements, animals, insects, and rodents.
  - Maintain the RMW in a nonputrescent state and dispose of the RMW immediately according to regulations if it becomes putrescent.
  - Lock any outdoor storage areas containing RMW to prevent unauthorized access and limit access to all on-site storage areas only to authorized employees.
  - Store RMW for no longer than one year.
4. Generators must segregate RMW into:
  - Sharps (including sharps containing residual fluids)
  - Fluids (quantities greater than 20 cubic centimeters)
  - Other RMW
5. All generators of Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) must complete and submit an Annual Generator Report to the DEP for the period of June 22 through June 21 of each calendar year. The report is to be submitted to the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Bureau of Resource Recovery and Technical Programs, PO Box 414, Trenton, NJ 08625-0414 by July 21 of each calendar year. A copy of the report must be retained at the generator's site for at least three years from the date that the report was due.

# COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

6. All RMW must be properly marked and labeled (see figure below).



## Who should I contact with questions?

### Medical Waste Generator Registration

Bureau of Hazardous Waste Regulation, Medical Waste Generation Unit (609) 984-3448

### Reporting Forms, Tracking Forms, and Technical Assistance

Bureau of Resource Recovery and Technical Programs (609) 984-6620

### RMW Generator Inspections, Needlestick Incident Investigations,

### RMW Abandonments and Emergencies

Department of Health & Senior Services (609) 588-3124

## Where can I get more information?

The following Web sites can be accessed for additional information:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/rrtp/rmw.htm>

Guidance Document for RMW

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/>

Department of Health & Senior Services, Public Health Sanitation and Safety Program

The information outlined herein is intended to serve only as guidance to persons interested in understanding the regulation of RMW management in New Jersey. This guidance must be consulted in conjunction with the solid waste regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:26 et seq. and other relevant regulations to understand the complete requirements for the management of RMW.