Definitions of contaminants

**Biohazard:** Contains or potentially contaminated with human infectious agents, viral vectors used with tissue culture or animal cell culture, biologically-determined toxins, human blood and body fluids, all human and animal cell cultures, or fluids and tissues from infected animals.

**r/s Nucleic Acid:** Recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids or genetically modified microorganisms (e.g., bacteria, plants, insects, animals). If also infectious, dispose of as Biohazard.

**Other Biological:** Not infectious to healthy adult humans or animals, and non-virulent. Contains or potentially contaminated with environmental microorganisms, plant and insect pathogens, or plant tissue cultures. If contaminated with chemical residue, follow the Chemical guideline.

**Chemical:** Disposable items contaminated with residual amounts of non-volatile toxic chemicals only (e.g., phenol, chloroform, acrylamide, xylene). For acutely toxic waste items, including the original container from manufacturers, consult the Transportation of Hazardous Materials Manual or ask EHS. Please note that Ethidium bromide-contaminated waste must be deactivated or collected as chemical waste by EHS.

**Other Biological:** Not infectious to healthy adult humans or animals, and non-virulent. Contains or potentially contaminated with environmental microorganisms, plant and insect pathogens, or plant tissue cultures. If contaminated with chemical residue, follow the Chemical guideline.

**Chemotherapeutic:** Disposable items contaminated with residual amounts of substances used to imitate a biochemical response in tissue culture or in animals and includes antineoplastic agents (e.g., cisplatin, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide); hormones or hormone-like drugs (e.g., estradiol, tamoxifen); synthetic analogs and other carcinogens (e.g., BrdU).

**Toxin Inactivation -**

1. Non-glass biohazard items that can puncture bags (e.g., plastic pipettes, micropipette tips, needles, and tubing) may be placed in a puncture resistant container (e.g., cardboard box lined with biohazard plastic bag, disposable sharps container, or manufactured “burn-up” bin) and then safely punctured in a red and biohazard bag for waste pick-up.

2. Separate carcasses and tissues from other disposable items (e.g., plastic and paper) whenever possible. Disable infectious waste from contact with frozen and room temperature infectious waste (e.g., carcasses and tissues) by burying or spreading. If infectious, dispose of as Biohazard.

3. Toxin Inactivation -

   - **Monoclonal antibodies:** Table A1 lists individual solutions. Although they may not be suitable for your particular toxin, consult the product information sheet for your biological toxin for specific instructions on inactivation:
     - **Autoclave:** Treat with another recognized inactivating solution.
     - **Radioisotopes mixed with biohazards:** Contact EHS before generating such wastes!
     - **Hazardous chemicals mixed with biohazards:** Consult appropriate waste manual or contact EHS before generating such wastes!
     - **Inactivated:** Solutions of biological toxins must be inactivated.
     - **Liquid media and cultures aggregated or deaggregated from dishes and dishes for body fluids:** Consult appropriate waste manual or contact EHS before generating such wastes!
     - **Radioisotopes mixed with biohazards:** Consult appropriate waste manual or contact EHS before generating such wastes!