**Bio Hazards**

# Introduction

Contact with bio-hazards such as faeces, saliva, blood, vomit etc. could result in blood-borne viruses such as HIV, Hepatitis B etc.

Contact could arise directly between person-to-person or through direct contact with mixed or contaminated waste/materials.

# Procedure

* Where there is a risk of contact with Bio-Hazards:
* Stop, try to identify the hazard without making contact. Contact a supervisor or operations advisor for further assistance
* Request information from the office to understand where the waste / material came from and if necessary, the office will contact the customer / supplier
* Regular inspections of waste / materials should be made before handling
* Use tools to separate out waste before handling
* Wear suitable personal protective equipment e.g. gloves with higher protection against puncture etc to sort through waste / materials
* Ensure that bio-hazardous waste is disposed of correctly, seeking advice from a supervisor or operations advisor if required
* Should operatives discover evidence of 'sharps' they must cease work and report the matter to the supervisor or operations advisor immediately. If, however, you are experienced and competent you can remove needles or syringes using the following methods on discovering needles remove with great care using the correct PPE if possible, use tongs provided, a hand-held litter picker or dustpan and brush to collect any needles prior to subsequent disposal to Sharps storage box
* The person removing and disposing of the sharp must then report the incident to the operations advisor with details of the item found, where it was found and if known, the
* company details from which it was disposed. This is in order to assist Management to identify the supplier as to prevent further instances
* Where operatives work in high-risk areas, inoculations against Hepatitis B and tetanus are recommended highly

# IN THE EVENT OF A SKIN PENETRATING INJURY

* encourage the wound to bleed, ideally by holding it under running water
* wash the wound using running water and plenty of soap
* don’t scrub the wound while you’re washing it
* don’t suck the wound
* dry the wound and cover it with a waterproof plaster or dressing
* you should also seek urgent medical advice at the nearest Accident & Emergency Department **Stay calm** - most blood borne viruses are regarded as weak and die quickly outside the body. In the waste sector, the vast majority of needles have been discarded hours or days before any needle stick situations. The main risk for needle stick injuries is to health workers