

Waste Management Guidance for Care Homes - Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing Waste

Where LFD testing is being carried out in Care Homes several distinct waste streams will be produced. Some of these streams contain liquid chemicals and therefore they need to be treated via Energy from Waste (i.e. incineration), and as such require to be segregated and managed accordingly. We encourage you to have an active conversation with your waste operator, if that has not already happened, and with SEPA if you or your waste operator experience any issues with applying the guidance set out below. SEPA stand ready to deal with any queries or concerns. Queries should be routed to nationalwaste@sepa.org.uk

Detailed advice is outlined below. In summary this is as follows:

- None of the wastes from LFD testing are considered a clinical waste therefore they must not be disposed of in an orange bag or treated as infectious clinical waste.
- Swabs, cartridges and devices associated with LFD testing should be treated as non-hazardous chemically contaminated waste and placed in clear bags so waste is 'visible' to prevent mis-handling or inappropriate treatment.
- Packaging relating to the testing kits is non-hazardous waste and should be managed via the existing procedure for this waste type.
- Where clear bags are not available you should speak to your local waste management team to agree an appropriate approach to achieve the desired treatment route (i.e. incineration). You will need to speak to the general waste contractor and ensure that this segregated waste is taken to energy from waste facilities, this may require separate arrangements to be made from other waste you produce.

Waste Types

None of the wastes being produced are considered a clinical waste therefore they must not be disposed of in an orange bag or treated as infectious clinical waste. This classification may lead to the waste being treated inappropriately.

Packaging:

Any packaging relating to the testing kits should be managed via the existing procedure for this waste type. This stream is non-hazardous packaging waste and should be classified, described and treated as follows:

EWC Code	Description	Preferred Treatment Route
15 01 XX (see WM3 for appropriate 6-digit code)	Packaging Waste	MRF, EFW or Landfill

Chemically Contaminated Waste

Any Swabs, cartridges and devices associated with LFD testing are likely to be contaminated liquid chemicals. This stream is not a clinical waste, neither is it classed as infectious therefore it must not be placed in an orange bag or disposed of via the clinical waste route.

Due to the liquid chemical content it must be treated by Incineration i.e. Energy from Waste. It is necessary for this waste to remain 'visible' in the waste management chain in order to prevent mis-handling or inappropriate treatment (e.g. sent to landfill) therefore where possible it should be placed in a clear bag.

Where clear bags are not available you should speak to your waste management contractor to agree an appropriate approach to achieve the desired treatment route (i.e. incineration).

This stream is non-hazardous chemically contaminated waste and should be classified, described and treated as follows:

EWC Code	Description	Preferred Treatment Route
20 01 99	Non-Hazardous Chemical contaminated waste from LFD testing	Incineration (EFW)

PPE

Any PPE associated with LFD Testing should be non-infectious and therefore not a clinical waste and must not be placed in an orange bag or disposed of via the clinical waste route.

Due to the potentially sensitive/offensive nature of this stream the preferred treatment route is incineration (EFW). Therefore, it is necessary for this waste to remain 'visible' in the waste management chain in order to prevent mis-handling or inappropriate treatment and where possible it should be placed in a clear bag.

Where clear bags are not available you should speak to your waste management contractor to agree an appropriate approach to achieve the desired treatment route (i.e. incineration).

This stream is non-infectious PPE waste and should be classified, described and treated as follows:

EWC Code	Description	Preferred Treatment Route
20 01 99	Non-infectious PPE	Hold for 72 Hours before disposal via Incineration (EFW) or landfill as a last resort.

Where there is known risk of infection due to the presence of COVID then the same rules apply i.e. as per HPS guidance.

Single Bag Disposal (excluding general waste and packaging)

On occasion storage may be limited and segregation may not be possible. Where this is the case, then the wastes can be disposed of in a single bag; however, this option should be used only as a last resort.

This stream is not a clinical waste, neither is it classed as infectious. Therefore, it must not be placed in an orange bag or disposed of via the clinical waste route.

Due to the liquid chemical content it must be treated by incineration i.e. Energy from Waste. It is necessary for this waste to remain 'visible' in the waste management chain in order to prevent mis-handling or inappropriate treatment (e.g. landfill). Therefore, where possible it should be placed in a clear bag.

Where clear bags are not available you should speak to your waste management contractor to agree an appropriate approach to achieve the desired treatment route (i.e. incineration).

This stream is non-hazardous chemically contaminated waste and should be classified, described and treated as follows:

EWC Code	Description	Preferred Treatment Route
20 03 01	Non-Hazardous Chemical contaminated mixed waste from LFD testing	Incineration (EFW)

All sites have a waste management 'Duty of Care' and are responsible for undertaking a local WM3 assessment for the classification of the waste that they will generate (if not identified in the tables above), this assessment must be documented. A Duty of Care Waste Transfer Note must be completed before waste is removed from site and records kept for minimum of 2 years.

EWC Coding Guideline for Waste arising from LFD Testing in Care Homes (Scotland Only)

Waste Stream	EWC	Description	Recommended Treatment
General Waste	20 01 31	Mixed Municipal/Recycling	MRF, EFW plant or Landfill
All Packaging	15 01 XX (see WM3 for appropriate 6 digit code)	Packaging	MRF, EFW plant or Landfill
Swabs & Cartridges/Devices (a)	20 01 99	Non Hazardous Chemical contaminated waste from testing	EFW plant
PPE (a)	20 01 99 (hold for 72 hrs)	Non-Infectious PPE	EFW Plant or Landfill (as last resort)
Single Bag Disposal (excluding general waste and packaging) (a) (b)	20 03 01	Non-hazardous chemical contaminated mixed waste from testing	EFW Plant

(a) – not suitable for orange bags and should be placed in clear bags in all settings. Where clear bags are not available speak to your waste contractor.

(b) – should only be adopted where appropriate i.e. no scope for segregation and/or restricted storage.