

INFECTIOUS WASTE GENERATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025 Estimate

October 2024



**SC DEPARTMENT *of*
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

S.C. Department Environmental Control

The Infectious Waste Generation Annual Report – 2024 Estimate is submitted by the S.C. Department of Environmental Services in compliance with S.C. Code Section 44-93-210. Additionally, Act 119 of 2010 mandates that agencies provide all reports to the General Assembly in an electronic format.

As required by the South Carolina Infectious Waste Management Act, the Department of Environmental Services (the Department) annually publishes a projection of the estimated amount of infectious waste to be generated in South Carolina for the next calendar year. This report fulfills this requirement.

The data used to calculate this estimate has been derived from in-state generators. According to the South Carolina Infectious Waste Management Regulation, R.61-105, any person producing infectious waste in South Carolina must register with the Department annually in writing on a Department registration form. The registration form includes the name of the business, address of the site of generation (each site of generation must apply separately), and the amount of infectious waste generated monthly (estimated within + or -20%). The data upon which this estimate is based was derived from the generator registration forms.

For the one-year period of October 1, 2023, through October 1, 2024, 9,426 generators have reported they produce an estimated 1,290.66 tons of infectious waste per month or 15,487.89 tons of infectious waste in a one-year period. There has been a significant increase in the number of generators, approximately 300 more but the quantity of waste generated exceeded projected expectations. The Department will continue to monitor this trend to understand this significant increase. Infectious waste generated in private households is excluded from the Infectious Waste Management Act and is not included in this report.

Additional information and resources regarding the infectious Waste Management Program may be found at: <https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-land-waste-management/infectious-waste>

The table below illustrates past generation rates.

YEAR	TONS PER YEAR
2015	8067.7
2016	7828.7
2017	7828.8
2018	7113.2
2019	7513.8
2020	7919.3
2021	7900.1
2022	15774.9
2023	7830.1
2024	7663.6

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**BUREAU OF LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
INFECTIOUS WASTE GENERATION**

TOTAL AMOUNT OF INFECTIOUS WASTE GENERATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Infectious Waste Categories	Pounds per month	Tons per month
SHARPS: Needles, syringes, lancets and scalpel blades.	749,887.17	374.94
MICROBIOLOGICALS: Specimens, cultures and stocks of human pathogenic agents.	194,068.26	97.03
BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS: Unabsorbed human blood, or blood products, or absorbed blood and bloody body fluids.	1,123,261.43	561.63
PATHOLOGICAL: Tissues, organs, limbs, products of conception and other body parts removed from the whole body.	120,470.46	60.24
ANIMAL: Animal carcasses, body parts and bedding of animals intentionally exposed to human pathogens during research. 27,052.00	27,052.00	13.53
ISOLATION: Biosafety Level Four, highly communicable diseases classified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.	119,495.96	59.75
OTHER: Other waste material designated by the generator as infectious waste.	247,079.38	123.54
TOTALS OF ALL WASTE STREAMS:	2,581,314.66	1,290.66

TOTAL NUMBER OF GENERATORS REGISTERED: 9,426