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**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND
REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
(ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 2007**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL (HEALTHCARE WASTE
CONTROL) REGULATIONS, 2021**



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**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND
REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
(ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 2007**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL (HEALTHCARE WASTE
CONTROL) REGULATIONS, 2021**

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by sections 25 and 34 of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act, 2007, and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, DR. MOHAMMAD MAHMOOD ABUBAKAR, Honourable Minister of Environment, make the following Regulations—

[3rd Day of March, 2021]

PART I—OBJECTIVE AND APPLICATION

1.—(1) The objective of these Regulations is to—

(a) prevent and minimise waste emanating from activities of healthcare facilities with a view to safeguarding human health and the Nigerian environment ; and

(b) manage healthcare waste, including all categories of healthcare waste as specified in the First Schedule to these Regulations.

(2) These Regulations shall apply to—

(a) healthcare waste generators, handlers and treatment facilities ; and

(b) categories of healthcare waste.

2. A healthcare facility shall prepare and implement a functional Healthcare Waste Management Plan (HCWMP), which shall include measures to be taken—

(a) in the generation of healthcare waste ;

(b) to safely contain, store and transport healthcare waste ;

(c) in the effective treatment and disposal of healthcare waste ; and

(d) to mitigate the adverse effects of such healthcare waste.

3.—(1) The appropriate collection, storage, transportation, treatment and final disposal of waste shall be the responsibility of the healthcare facility generating the waste within the specified standards and guidelines.

(2) In the event of an incident resulting in an adverse impact on the environment, the facility shall be responsible for—

(a) the cost of damage assessment and control ;

(b) remediation ;

Commence-
ment.

Objectives
and
application.

Healthcare
waste
management
plan.

Emergency
response.

- (c) reclamation ; and
- (d) restoration.

Pollution control.

4. A healthcare facility or its licensed agent shall—

(a) prevent contamination arising from hazardous and associated waste, which may likely cause pollution of the environment including soil, surface and ground water ;

(b) have an impermeable base for any ancillary equipment and provide a bund wall or any other appropriate technology in the event of any unanticipated discharge or spillage ; and

(c) install underground tanks and fuel dumps with leak detection equipment, which shall be regularly inspected for leakages to prevent soil contamination and seepage into ground water.

Effluent limitation.

5.—(1) The National Environmental Standards in relation to effluent limitations for the sector shall be as prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations.

(2) Every effluent shall be deemed to be unacceptable where—

(a) the concentration of any of its parameters exceeds the permissible limits as prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations ; and

(b) it is discharged from a facility without appropriate pre- treatment.

(3) Effluent under sub-regulation (2) of this regulation shall be treated to attain the minimum standards as prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations before it is discharged.

Prohibition of untreated discharges.

6.—(1) A healthcare facility or healthcare waste treatment facility shall not discharge effluent or discard spent oil, grease, wash-water, debris, flammable liquids, paints, litter, sludge or sediments on land, into a water course or water body except it has been treated to the permissible limits as prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations.

(2) A person shall not wash a hazardous spill down the public drainage system under any circumstance.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-regulation (1) of this regulation, any healthcare facility or waste treatment facility using an effluent for re-use purposes, shall ensure that the concentration or value of any of the parameters of the effluent conforms to standards as prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations.

Effluent treatment.

7. A healthcare facility or healthcare waste treatment facility shall—

(a) carry out efficient treatment of its waste at all times ;

(b) ensure that the sludge containing heavy metals or other toxic materials is disposed of in an Environmentally Sound Manner (ESM) in a designated disposal site ;

