

Introduction to legislation

International agreements and principles

- Basel Convention
- Polluter Pays Principle
- Precautionary Principle
- Duty of Care Principle
- Proximity Principle



Basel Convention, 1989

- Coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Signed by more than 100 Nations (Parties)
- Controls transboundary movements of hazardous waste



Polluter Pays

All waste producers are legally and financially responsible for:

- safe handling
- environmentally sound disposal
- creating an incentive to produce less



Precautionary Principle

Where risk is uncertain or unknown:

- Assume risk is significant
- Plan protection measures accordingly



“Duty of Care” for wastes

The “duty of care” principle stipulates that any person handling or managing hazardous substances or related equipment is ethically responsible for applying the utmost care.



Proximity Principle

Treatment and disposal of waste takes place as near as possible to the point of production as is technically and environmentally possible



National Legislation

- National legislation is the basis for improving HCW practices
- Permits legal controls and applying pressure
- Legal package: a law, a policy document and technical guidelines



National Law

- Clear definitions
- Defined responsibilities
- Duty of Care of waste producer
- Tracking systems and record keeping
- Defined penalties
- Regulatory and enforcement systems



Policy Document

- Description of health and safety risks
 - Reasons for safe and sustainable health-care waste management
 - Description of approved methods of waste minimization, handling and disposal
 - Record keeping and documentation
 - Training
 - Health and safety protection rules
- etc.



Technical Guidelines

- **Outline of the legal framework**
- **Responsibilities of actors**
- **Safe practices for :**
 - ▶ Minimization
 - ▶ Segregation
 - ▶ Storage
 - ▶ Handling
 - ▶ Transport
 - ▶ Treatment and Disposal

