

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality  
East London | Bhisho | King William's Town  
Province of the Eastern Cape  
South Africa

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**DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**DEPARTMENT: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES**

## MEMORANDUM

15 February 2021

Our ref.: <b>4/1/2/3/95</b>	Enq.: <b>Mr. L. A. Falati</b>	Your ref.:
Ifayileyethu:	Imibuzo: <b>043 705 2933/07</b>	Ifayileyakho:
Ons Verw.:	Navrae:	U Verw.:

### BUHLE WASTE INSPECTION.

#### BACKGROUND

The company was appointed on the 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 by the Department of Health Eastern Cape to collect, transport, treat and safely dispose health care risk waste. It has been noted that they are now also storing health care waste within their East London site in West Bank.

#### INVESTIGATION

On the 09<sup>th</sup> February 2021 a site visit was conducted by BCMM officials, Mr N Matana, Mr. L. Tshongweni and Ms. Z. Zameka from Municipal Health Services. A compliant was received that, the company was storing waste illegally. Below are findings gathered from the inspection.

There are two (2) cold room containers stationed inside the site. These are used to store HCRW from health facilities. One refrigerated storage container was opened for inspection, it was full inside up to the door. The cold room fan was not even visible as it was closed due to the manner waste boxes were packed inside. Anatomical Waste storage was full to an extent that top boxes could fall while opening the container.



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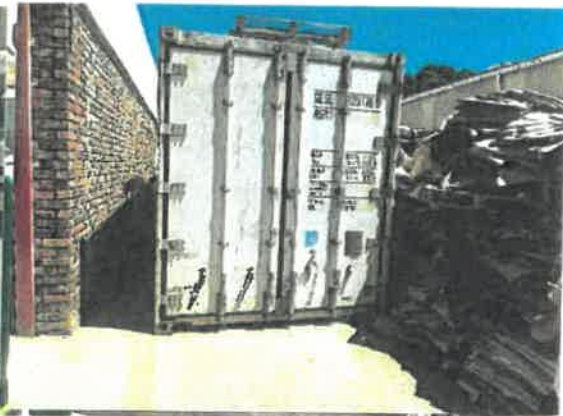


The Covid sharps container was fully packed and had mosquitos. The outside storage area had an offensive odour. There was no Pest Control Management. HCRW storage area is not clearly demarcated and does not have appropriate signage. No change rooms for employees. Pharmaceutical waste storage container was not locked. Fire extinguishers need to be serviced. Records of staff training were not complete. Bad housekeeping (old and used boxes were not properly packed). Inside the premises at the back, there are approximately 4/5 cages. These are used to store some of the health risk waste. The floors are concrete made. A Permit from National Department of Environmental Affairs was provided which confirms their approval to utilise the premises as a temporal storage facility.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Empty un-used /Boxes should be properly packed or kept as they might harbour rats causing pest infestation.
2. The system/approach of packing in the cold room should be changed as the current one does not suit the main purpose of the storage.
3. Good housekeeping practices must be adhered to on all HCRW storage containers.
4. Maintain good housekeeping in general to improve general hygiene of the site.
5. Must have a pest control management programme in place.
6. Service fire extinguishers.
7. Train all staff member on handling HCRW.
8. Ensure that all HCRW storage containers are always locked.
9. Ensure all HCRW storage containers are adequately illuminated and ventilated.
10. The entire storage facility should be rodent proof.
11. The HCRW storage must be correctly marked/ labelled with relevant hazard symbols of the relevant waste stream.
12. Hazardous waste storage facilities must not be packed/stacked.
13. Safe and convenient height storage should be maintained to avoid accidental tip over.
14. The storage area must always be always kept hygienically clean and dry.





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## **CONCLUSION**

It has been established that the company is operating legally as per the documents provided. A letter was provided which confirms the site can be used for storage purposes.

**MR. L. A. FALATI**

**SENIOR MANAGER: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES**



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