

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 333**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski**

February 13, 2013

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An act to repeal and add Section 117630 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to medical waste.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 333, as introduced, Wieckowski. Biohazard bags.

Existing law regulates the disposal of medical waste and requires specified biohazard materials to be disposed of in biohazard bags. Existing law defines a biohazard bag as a disposable red bag that has the strength to preclude ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions of usage and handling and that is constructed of material of sufficient single thickness strength to pass the 165-gram dropped dart impact resistance test, as specified, and certified by the bag manufacturer.

This bill would change the definition of a biohazard bag to a film bag certified by the manufacturer as having passed specified tests for tear resistance and impact resistance. The bill would require a biohazard bag to be red unless other colors are used to further segregate the waste stream. If additional colors are used, the bill would require the color assignments to be designated in the facility's medical waste management plan.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 117630 of the Health and Safety Code  
2 is repealed.

3 117630. ~~“Biohazard bag” means a disposable red bag that is~~  
4 ~~impervious to moisture and has a strength sufficient to preclude~~  
5 ~~ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions of usage and~~  
6 ~~handling of the waste-filled bag. A biohazard bag shall be~~  
7 ~~constructed of material of sufficient single thickness strength to~~  
8 ~~pass the 165-gram dropped dart impact resistance test as prescribed~~  
9 ~~by Standard D-1709-85 of the American Society for Testing and~~  
10 ~~Materials and certified by the bag manufacturer.~~

11 SEC. 2. Section 117630 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
12 to read:

13 117630. “Biohazard bag” means a disposable film bag that is  
14 impervious to moisture. The film bags that are used for transport  
15 shall be marked and certified by the manufacturer as having passed  
16 the tests prescribed for tear resistance in the American Society for  
17 Testing Materials (ASTM) D1922, “Standard Test Method for  
18 Propagation Tear Resistance of Plastic Film and Thin Sheeting by  
19 Pendulum Method” and for impact resistance in ASTM D 1709,  
20 “Standard Test Methods for Impact Resistance of Plastic Film by  
21 the Free-Falling Dart Method,” as those documents are published  
22 on January 1, 2014. The film bag shall meet an impact resistance  
23 of 165 grams and a tearing resistance of 480 grams in both parallel  
24 and perpendicular planes with respect to the length of the bag. The  
25 color of the bag shall be red, except when other colors are used to  
26 further segregate the waste stream, including for trace  
27 chemotherapy wastes, laboratory wastes, and other subsets of the  
28 waste stream. If additional colors are used other than the standard  
29 red bag, the color assignments shall be designated in the facility’s  
30 medical waste management plan.

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