

Does Your Clinical Waste Bag Audit Trail Method Work?



There are two stages to the management of clinical waste:

- Bagging and movement within the hospital
- Collection from the hospital and disposal

Audit Trailing of clinical waste bags was introduced in 1992 to coincide with the implementation of the “Duty of Care” recommendations.

The objective is to enable every clinical waste bag to be tracked back to its point of origin in the event of a problem.

Since 1992 there has been a growing demand for printed tags to seal clinical waste bags and create a recognisable audit trail, with over 50% of trusts now using this method.

- The first two lines of text identify the Trust and provide a contact telephone number to trace the tag back to a hospital.
- The third line is a sequential serial number which means that each bag has a unique identity, which traces it back to the department it was issued to.

By recording the batches of serial numbers issued to each department with talisman’s online audit trail system an audit trail has been created. This allows every bag of clinical waste to be tracked to its point of origin.

The Environmental Protection Act of 1990 made it unlawful to dispose of clinical waste without a waste management license.

The Hazardous Waste Regulations of 2005 were also introduced to improve the regulation of the movement of clinical waste.

- These 2 legal requirements apply to the second stage and is usually the responsibility of the waste contractor