

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOVEMBER 14, 1991

Lt. Col. Peter K. Spitz  
Chief Executive Officer  
Multidyne Medical Waste Mngt., Inc.  
3180 S. Ocean Drive, Suite 811  
Hallandale, Florida 33009

Dear Mr. Spitz:

This letter is in response to your telephone conversation with Kristina Meson last week concerning Medical waste issues. You had asked if there are currently any federal regulations governing the importation of untreated medical waste from a foreign country, in particular, Germany.

As discussed in your conversation with Ms. Meson, at present there are no federal regulations prohibiting such action, provided that the waste is not hazardous as defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Subtitle C (40 CFR 261.3). If the waste meets the criteria for a hazardous waste, all applicable regulations must be followed.

Although there are no regulations at the federal level, each state has its own regulations which may prohibit untreated medical waste entering that state. The appropriate state authorities must be contacted in order to assure these regulations would not be violated. In Florida, you should contact Mr. Tom Moore, Department of Environmental Regulations, Solid Waste Section, Division of Waste Management, 2600 Blairstone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400, (904) 922-6104.

The Basel Convention is expected to enter into force sometime in 1992. This accord will require that countries who are Party to the Convention import or export hazardous waste, municipal waste, municipal incinerator ash, and medical waste only with other Basel parties unless they have a separate agreement requiring environmentally sound waste management. The U.S. Congress is presently considering several legislative proposals which would give the U.S. government the authority to implement the terms of the convention and which would enable us to ratify the convention. Once legislation is enacted and implementing regulations are promulgated, importers and exporters of waste will be required to comply with certain additional standards.

I hope this information is helpful to you in your endeavor. Thank you for your interest in medical waste management.

Sincerely,

David Bussard, Director  
Characterization and  
Assessment Division