ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET NO. 600

TURBO BURNER INCINERATOR

fact sheet

The Department of Health and Family Services - Environmental Health Program endorses the use of the Turbo Burn incinerator (hereinafter referred to as the 'device') on remote communities as a consequence a successful trial at a top end community health centre. This endorsement however is subject to the following conditions:

- the device shall not be used to incinerate pharmaceutical waste, cytotoxic waste, chemical waste, radioactive waste, and discarded sharps
- the owner at all times must ensure that the device is operated and maintained in accordance with Scholer Industries' operating and maintenance instructions and specifications
- it is the owner's responsibility to ensure that operating staff are thoroughly trained in the use of the device and are familiar with Scholer Industries' operating procedures. The owner and operating staff also need to be aware of their responsibilities under Northern Territory work health and safety legislation
- it is the owner/operator's responsibility to ensure that the device does not cause a public health or environmental nuisance during the incineration process
- the device must not be left unattended during the incineration process
- the device must have weatherproof storage and access to an available power outlet
- the device must be operated on a level surface, preferably a concrete slab
- the device must be operated in conjunction with its dedicated flue stack and safety cage
- to maximise incineration and to facilitate operator use, new 200 litre drums should be provided with every device
- suitable fire safety equipment must be readily available during the incineration process
- extension leads must be maintained in good condition and should be of an Australian Standards approved heavy-duty type. They should be located in a position where they are not subject to mechanical or any other damage and are not to be used in wet conditions
- NT WorkSafe and the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) advised that the device does not currently require registration/licensing under their respective legislation, however this endorsement will be subject to review in the event that NRETAS amend their registration/licensing requirements
- the owner should keep a logbook onsite recording frequency of incineration, types of materials being incinerated, and details of complaints
- ash may be disposed of on garden beds, however any solids materials that have only been partially incinerated must be disposed of at a landfill site
- the owner must have a contingency plan for waste management in the event of device breakdown or when incineration is unfeasible
- the owner must notify Environmental Health of any modifications proposed for the device.
- the system may be subject to periodic review by DHF to ensure the system is operating in compliance with these conditions of approval
- Environmental Health will review this endorsement by March 2009 and therefore owners must notify Environmental Health of any new device installations during this period.