

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

May 4, 2005

Dr. Sanford A. Glazer
WPS Company
3431 Benson Ave., Suite 100
Baltimore, MD 21227

Dear Dr. Glazer

This letter is in response to your April 29, 2005 letter requesting clarification of the status of steam sterilization as a form of treatment for suction canister waste. You are correct in your assessment that, because the Department of Health Services (DHS) has approved the Waste Processing Solutions' (WPS) SSM-150 as an Alternative Medical Waste Treatment Technology and because this technology grinds all waste as part of the treatment, it is appropriate for the treatment of suction canister waste. Just as with any approved technology, the operator is required by Chapter 8, Section 118215 (a)(2)(D) of the Medical Waste Management Act to assure the proper operation and maintenance of the unit by using a biological indicator to demonstrate treatment on a monthly basis.

I trust that this information is useful to you. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me by telephone at 449-5664 or by e-mail at dbailey@dhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darice G. Bailey'.

Darice G. Bailey, Chief
Waste Management Section