

# Joint Commission Guide

Environment of Care | Hazardous Materials

## EC.02.02.01: Questions You'll Need Answers To During Your Survey

Joint Commission surveys are complex, often times catching organizations off-guard. Triumvirate Environmental has compiled this list of questions to help you evaluate your facility and identify opportunities for improvement. Our mission is to help you stay safe and compliant by proactively preparing your organization for inspection.

1. Describe your manifest tracking, return-copy timeframes, and filing of documents.
2. What would you do if a bag containing sharps, biowaste and chemical waste was identified in a location? How would you approach the collection, handling, storage, shipping, and the selection of the end disposal facility?
3. What is the process of lead apron disposal? Where are the aprons sent? What is done with them at the end disposal facility?
4. What procedure would be followed if a learning disabled person becomes splashed with a chemical?
5. Describe your organization's Hazard Communication plan.
6. Describe your personal protective equipment (PPE) program. How do you determine when PPE is required? What documentation advises users as to the PPE required?
7. Does your organization have an asbestos management program? What about mold?
8. Does your organization have a list of chemicals, labels of warnings, SDS, notice to contractors?
9. Does your organization have equipment to respond to hazardous waste spills?
10. Do you have a written response procedure?
11. If your organization has spill kits around, do you have wall signage on what to do?
12. Tell me about the containers that your incompatibles waste goes in, and describe the labels.
13. Does your program management note and adhere to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) technical manual, the American Society of Health System (ASHS)?
14. What is your organization's generator status? How much waste do you generate?
15. Have you registered with the state as a hazardous waste generator site?
16. What type of area - Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA) or Main Accumulation Area (MAA) - is your waste stored in? How are these areas inspected? Are materials segregated?

## **EC.02.02.01: Questions You Need to Have Answers to To Ace Your Survey *(Continued)***

17. What documents are used when materials are shipped out of your organization?
18. Do you have a histology area that uses xylene? How is the material stored? How are wastes collected?
19. Is barium sulfate collected? How is expired barium managed in Radiology?
20. Name the nine Department of Transportation (DOT) classes.
21. Talk to me about chemical physical hazards.
22. Talk to me about hazardous chemicals that are health hazards.
23. What do these codes mean? P-U-F-K?
24. Does your organization inspect the central location every 7 days?
25. Do you maintain aisle space?
26. Where does your organization store ignitables?
27. What departments require department-specific education? Describe any training specific to operating room personnel.
28. How do you identify and train employees who work with hazardous materials?
29. How do you manage the collection, shipment, and taping of terminals for lithium batteries?
30. How is unused developer (hydroquinone) handled?
31. How are fentanyl patches disposed of?
32. How does your organization identify if something is hazardous?
33. How does your organization segregate and classify explosive and reactive chemicals?
34. How are your pharmacy drugs evaluated, handled, collected and disposed of?
35. How are hazards within the MAA communicated to occupants outside of the space?
36. Who runs hazardous chemicals nationally? What about storage and use?
37. Who manages your organization's SDS sheets?
38. Who oversees hazardous chemicals?