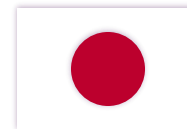




*In partnership with the
Government of Japan*



Module 5 Summary

epihc.org

ETHICAL PRINCIPLE 5 – RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

THE WHY, THE HOW AND YOUR DUTY



SCENARIO

International healthcare group strives to be carbon neutral by 2030



KEY LEARNINGS, CRITICAL DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

1. Exercise extreme vigilance when it comes to the disposal of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous).
2. Use energy sources carefully.
3. In addition to (2) above it is essential that the protection of scarce resources become embedded within the culture of the organization. In many countries there is a requirement for organizations to report on their environmental, social and governance (ESG) measures.
4. It is incumbent on each manager to make all employees aware of the role that they play in conserving precious resources such as water and energy (electricity, gas etc).
5. When disposing of dangerous items such as sharps, it is essential that checks and balances prevent the accidental injury of staff members or a third party.
6. When disposing of and storing medical waste, it is important to follow the prescribed policy and procedure.
7. For radioactive and cytotoxic waste the legal prescriptions must be implemented to prevent significant harm both short and long term to all stakeholders.
8. The disposal of metal, scrapped medical equipment, computer equipment and related devices, and plastic – requires careful consideration in order to prevent environmental damage.
9. Last but not least, it is incumbent on any manager or supervisor to ensure that all persons handling waste and dangerous materials are provided with and wear the relevant personal protection equipment.



NOTES FOR MANAGERS

Following good practice is non-negotiable!



LEGAL CASE

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WHICH ESTABLISH FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES CONCERNING PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE

Diagnostic testing company accused of unlawful disposal of hazardous waste, medical waste, and protected health information.



1. Implement and maintain social and environmental governance at Board level and review same regularly.
2. Gather company specific information and monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and report same to your stakeholders.
3. Ensure that services provided subscribe to the following good practices:
 - a. Work in ways that minimize the negative impact, or have a positive impact, on the environment.
 - b. Look for opportunities to conserve energy and resources, minimize pollution, and reduce waste.
 - c. Segregate and properly dispose of waste water.
 - d. Raise awareness of the risks related to health care waste, and promote safe practices.
 - e. Promote practices that reduce the volume of wastes generated.
 - f. Implement a hazardous materials management program addressing responsibilities, resource allocation, handling and disposal.
4. Ensure that you state environmental achievements accurately and honestly.
5. Ensure that business transactions with vendors, contractors, and other third parties are conducted in support of the social and environmental governance frameworks.
6. Ensure that all purchases of services and supplies are from qualified and reliable sources and are based on objective factors, consistent with the organization's policies and procedures.
7. Act honestly and responsibly, avoiding practices which harm the environment, and dealing with any actual or perceived threats or risks with transparency and sensitivity.



NOTES FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVES AND BOARD MEMBERS

Feigning ignorance is not a valid defence!

