

## Hazard alert – Sharps Containers

### Sharps Containers

Some Sharps Containers used are supplied by the manufacturer in 2 halves. The two halves are snapped together to create the sharps container.

An incident has occurred at the Australian National University where one of these containers was not snapped together properly:

[http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/OHS/Hazard\\_Alerts/Sharps\\_Container\\_Accident.asp](http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/OHS/Hazard_Alerts/Sharps_Container_Accident.asp)

The incident resulted in a large spill of sharps. The sharps container involved has not been tested using AS4031. To comply with this Standard, Sharps containers are rigorously tested to ensure the container is leak proof, impact resistant, resistant to piercing by Sharps and the handle is sturdy. Laboratories undertaking gene technology work must take care to ensure sharps containers are AS 4031 compliant to ensure that there is not an accidental release of GMOs.

Only Sharps Containers compliant with AS4031 should be used at the University of Queensland. Non-compliant containers do not have needed safe guards in place and should not be used.

**Issued on 14 June, 2005 by:**

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