

Board Proposes Amendments to Potentially Infectious Medical Waste Rules for Second Notice

On September 3, 2026, the Board proposed amendments to its “potentially infectious medical waste” (PIMW) rules for second-notice review by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). The PIMW rules at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 1422 provide the design and operating standards and criteria for PIMW treatment, storage, and transfer facilities.

BioSAFE Engineering initiated this rulemaking by filing a proposal to add an indicator microorganism, “*Bacillus atrophaeus*,” to Part 1422 for efficacy testing low-pressure/low-temperature treatment systems. The indicator microorganisms specified in the current rules are not appropriate for testing these systems. By opinion and order of May 7, 2026, the Board proposed the addition of “*Bacillus atrophaeus*” for first notice, along with clarifying amendments to Part 1422, including updating “*Bacillus stearothermophilus*” to the current nomenclature of “*Geobacillus stearothermophilus*.”

During this rulemaking, the Board held two public hearings and received testimony from BioSAFE Engineering and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The amendments proposed for first notice were published in the *Illinois Register* on May 22, 2026 (50 Ill. Reg. 7317). The amendments proposed for second notice, which are unchanged from first notice, are on the agenda for JCAR’s October 20, 2026 meeting.

This rulemaking is captioned Potentially Infectious Medical Waste (PIMW): Proposed Amendment of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 1422 Appendix A, Table B – Indicator Microorganisms, docket R25-24. Here is a link to the Board’s [second-notice opinion and order](#). That opinion and order’s addendum containing the text of the proposed amendments is available [here](#). For more information, please contact Carlie Leoni at 312-814-3886 or carlie.leoni@illinois.gov.