QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EVALUATING SHARPS DISPOSAL CONTAINER PERFORMANCE

INSTRUCTIONS: Product evaluators should inspect and operate containers to be evaluated in side-by-side comparisons. Representative sharps (syringes, IV sets, blades, biopsy needles, pipettes, etc.) should be used to test candidate products. Actual use conditions should be simulated, if possible. Prior to inserting test sharps, attempt to reopen sealed containers and attempt to spill or remove contents from unsealed containers if this is a functional requirement. Evaluation facilitators should provide product manufacturer literature and visual instructions and should demonstrate proper operation of each of the containers. Use of this guideline requires knowledge that the ideal product may not exist and that this evaluation tool was based on common product designs available at the time.

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE

FUNCTIONALITY

	agree				disagree
Container is stable when placed on horizontal surface and when used as described in the product labeling for use in trays, holders, or enclosures	1	2	3	4	5
Container provides for puncture, leak, and impact resistance	1	2	3	4	5
Container, labels, warning devices, and brackets are durable	1	2	3	4	5
Container is autoclavable, if necessary	1	2	3	4	5
Container is available in various sizes and capacities	1	2	3	4	5
Container is available with auxiliary safety features (e.g., restricted access to sharps in the container), if required	1	2	3	4	5
Closure mechanism will not allow needlestick injury	1	2	3	4	5
Closure mechanism provides secure seal	1	2	3	4	5
Design minimizes needle-tip flipback	1	2	3	4	5
Design promotes clinical performance (e.g., will not compromise sterile field or increase injury or infection control hazards)	1	2	3	4	5
Design resists easy reopening after sealing for final disposal or autoclaving	1	2	3	4	5
Inlet design defeats waste removal when open	1	2	3	4	5
Inlet design prevents spillage of contents (physical or liquid) while sharps disposal container is in use in the intended upright position	1	2	3	4	5
Containers designed to be reopenable have removable lids design with tight closure that facilitates ease of removal with grip safety and comfort	1	2	3	4	5
Mounting brackets are rugged and designed for ease of service and decontamination	1	2	3	4	5

ACCESSIBILITY

	agree				disagree
Container available in various opening sizes and shapes	1	2	3	4	5
Containers are supplied in sufficient quantity	1	2	3	4	5
Container has an entanglement-free opening/access way	1	2	3	4	5
Container opening/access way and current fill status visible to user prior to placing sharps into container	1	2	3	4	5
Internal design/molding of container does not impede ease of use	1	2	3	4	5
Handles, if present, located above full-fill level	1	2	3	4	5
Handles, if present, facilitate safe vertical transport and are located away from opening/access way and potentially soiled surfaces	1	2	3	4	5
Fixed locations place container within arm's reach of point of waste generation	1	2	3	4	5
Fixed locations allow for installation of the container below horizontal vision level	1	2	3	4	5
If necessary, in high patient or visitor traffic areas, container should provide for security against tampering	1	2	3	4	5

Establishment/Facility Name: _____

Sample Sharps Injury Log Year 2____

Date	Case/Report No.	Type of Device (e.g., syringe, suture needle)	Brand Name of Device	Work Area where injury occurred [e.g., Geriatrics, Lab]	Brief description of how the incident occurred [i.e., procedure being done, action being performed (disposal, injection, etc.), body part injured]

29 CFR 1910.1030, OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, in paragraph (h)(5), requires an employer to establish and maintain a Sharps Injury Log for recording all percutaneous injuries in a facility occurring from *contaminated* sharps. The purpose of the Log is to aid in the evaluation of devices being used in healthcare and other facilities and to identify problem devices or procedures requiring additional attention or review. This log must be kept in addition to the injury and illness log required by 29 CFR 1904. The Sharps Injury Log should include all sharps injuries occurring in a calendar year. The log must be retained for five years following the end of the year to which it relates. The Log must be kept in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of the affected employee.

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Washington, DC.