

# SAFETY ALERT

## Disposal of Waste Lab Glass

### Issue:

Cardboard containers which stand approximately 25-30 inches in height are currently used by many labs at the University of Minnesota to dispose of uncontaminated, non-recyclable waste lab glass. These containers when filled with waste glass can become very heavy posing a possible serious back injury risk to personnel as they are handled from the lab to the disposal site. Also, the bottom of these containers weaken from the waste glass weight creating a possible hazard from the bottom failing and broken glass scattering about. If the cardboard container becomes wet, the likelihood of bottom failure increases.

### Corrective Action Plan:

For the safety of the personnel disposing of the filled waste lab glass containers, please discontinue the use of the container pictured below. The current inventory of these containers on-hand can be used up, but no new orders of this size container should be placed. Going forward, all labs disposing of uncontaminated, non-recyclable waste lab glass should use:

- The original, sturdy cardboard shipping container for lab glass or a similar reusable box of the same size and sturdiness.
- The smaller capacity glass recycling boxes available through U Stores as part numbers 17-988-448 (medium size 12x12x20) or 17-988-448 (small size 8x8x10).

All waste lab glass containers are to have a "Waste Lab Glass" label affixed to the outside of the container or be clearly labeled as "Waste Lab Glass," and be lined with a plastic bag to contain any potential residue.

