



Risk Management of Hazardous Biological Materials

Standard

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Standard

The principle objective when dealing with hazardous biological material is to manage the work to prevent harm to people or animals or the environment from exposure to hazardous biological materials by using appropriate controls. The level of control depends on, and is proportionate to, the risk of the work.

The University takes a management approach based on the adequate control of the risks relating to work with hazardous biological materials, backed up by the need for legal compliance.

The University expects that:

- Work only starts once it has been risk assessed, appropriately approved and any identified control measures implemented and monitored.
- **Services** include any significant risk from hazardous biological material in their activity or COSHH risk assessments.
- **Faculties** determine whether their work involving hazardous biological material is either **Incidental** or **Deliberate**.
 - where work is defined as deliberate work ‘the deliberate procedure for risk assessing and obtaining approval’ is followed.
 - where work is defined as incidental within a faculty, any significant risk from hazardous biological material is included in the activity or COSHH risk assessment covering the work.
- Anyone under the minimum school leavers’ age is not employed in work involving exposure to hazardous biological material.
- People involved in the receipt, storage, handling, transport, use and disposal of hazardous biological materials are given appropriate and recorded induction, training and management supervision.
- Control measures (e.g. Personal Protective Equipment or microbiological safety cabinet or autoclaves) are routinely maintained and inspected in accordance with statutory or University requirements.
- Statutory licensing is obtained before acquiring the biological material.
- When transporting hazardous biological materials they are appropriately labelled, packaged and transported by people who understand the relevant emergency procedures and have identified control measures in place.
- Hazardous biological materials are disposed of in accordance with both the risk assessment and local procedures, in order to comply with University waste disposal standards.
- Any requirement for health surveillance is identified in the risk assessment.
 - If work-related health surveillance is necessary it is organised and carried out.
 - People exposed to biological materials from hazard group 2 or above as a result of their work activities are registered with the Occupational Health Service.
 - People who have an allergy or sensitivity to any of the hazardous biological materials, or are a new or expectant mother, or are immuno-compromised have an individual risk assessment.
- [Occupational Health Services](#) and the University Biological Safety contacts are contacted if someone is exposed to hazardous biological materials or becomes ill as a result of work activities.
- Where people are working with hazardous biological materials in partnership with an external organisation (for example the NHS, other Higher Education Institutions or companies), one partner formally takes the lead and accepts legal overall responsibility for the work. The hazardous biological materials risk assessment process of the lead partner is used.
- Anybody working with genetically modified material has their details registered with the local Biological Safety Coordinator or the University Biological Safety contacts. This includes the person’s name, position (e.g. line manager, post/undergraduate, etc.), the work they are associated with, start date and finish date of the work.

Relevant Legislation and other University Protocols / Guidance

UK Legislation

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- The Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2000
- The Specified Animal Pathogens Order 2008
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. For more information see [Guidance to section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#).

University Protocols and Guides

- Risk Assessment Protocol
- Deliberate work with hazardous biological material Guidance
- Incidental contact with hazardous biological material Guidance
- Hazard Substances Protocol

Approved Codes of Practice

- General COSHH Approved Code of Practice and Carcinogens ACOP and Biological Agents ACOP (L5) 2009 ISBN 978-0-7176-2981-7
- A guide to the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2000 ISBN 0-7176-1758-8
- [Categorisation of Biological Agents According to Hazard and Categories of Containment](#)
- The Management, Design and Operations of Microbiological Containment Laboratories 2001 ISBN 0-7176-2034-4
- SACGM compendium of guidance: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/gmo/acgm/acgmcomp/>