Biosafety Policy

Effective: September 2000
Review Date: April 2007
Revised Date: April 2007

[Signature]
Vice-President,
Finance and Administration

Applicable Legislation:


Occupational Health and Safety Act of Ontario (OHSA) - Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents Regulation, O. Reg. 833, R.R.O. 1990; http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/900833_e.htm


Human Pathogens Importation Regulations (SOR / 94-558);

Plant Protection Act and Regulations (1990 / 95-212);

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations (1992, c. 34);

Health Protection and Promotion Act and Regulations (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7);
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90h07_e.htm#BK29

Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999;

New Substance Notification Regulations (Organisms);

Applicable Standards and Guidelines:

Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CEPR), Office of Laboratory
Security:
http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/425e.pdf

www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4321e.pdf


NIH Laboratory Safety Monograph, Supplement to the NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research, 1979  

http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/bmbl5/bmbl5toc.htm

National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity  
http://www.biosecurityboard.gov/index.asp

Tri-Council Memorandum of Understanding:

Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Granting Agencies, July 2002.  
http://www.nserc.ca/institution/mou_doc_e.htm

Application:

The Biosafety Policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, visitors, and contractors at the University of Guelph including the regional campuses, research stations, and approved University field sites.

Policy

It is the policy of the University that all research, teaching, and diagnostic work involving work with biohazardous materials be conducted in a safe manner in order to protect the University community and the community at large.

The University will establish and maintain a Biosafety Program that will manage and rigorously control all biohazardous materials in teaching, research, and diagnostic
programs. The University shall regularly review and make appropriate amendments to the program.

The University will provide appropriate information to pertinent individuals or groups who are occupants of University buildings with biohazardous materials, and information and/or training to those who work with or in close proximity to biohazardous materials.

The University will effectively communicate the provisions of the Biosafety Program to all appropriate workplace parties.

Faculty, staff, students, visitors and contractors at the University will comply with the provisions of the Biosafety Program.

The University shall avoid the use of biohazardous materials if another method or activity can be substituted. Where the use of biohazardous materials is unavoidable, the least harmful material shall be used.

Where it is required to use or store biohazardous materials, a risk assessment shall be performed to determine precautions and work practices to be implemented. The risk of exposure shall be reduced to as low a level as possible by limiting the number of persons potentially exposed and by the design of work processes and engineering control measures.

Glossary

**Biohazardous Material**  
Material which contains organisms that have been shown to cause disease in persons or animals and the toxins of such organisms.

**Biosafety**  
A program of administrative controls, medical surveillance, vaccination, and containment strategies to reduce or eliminate exposure of laboratory workers, other persons, animals, plants and the outside environment to biohazardous materials.

**Engineering controls**  
Measures to reduce exposure to potential hazards either by isolating the hazard or by removing it from the work environment. Fume hoods and biocontainment cabinets are typical engineering controls.

**Risk Assessment**  
The qualitative or quantitative estimation of the likelihood of adverse effects that may result from exposure to specified hazards.