

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure that all users of biohazardous materials meet the Health Canada and Tri-Council (NSERC/SSHRC/CIHR) guidelines.

2.0 Applicability

- 2.1 University-wide

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 Biohazards refer to plant, animal, and human pathogens. They also include certain forms of recombinant DNA that cause or are reasonably believed to cause disease. Pathogenic organisms are classified into four risk groups based upon the severity of the disease they may cause.

4.0 Implementation

- 4.1 **REGULATIONS:** The use of all biohazardous material in UNB laboratories shall meet the requirements of the Health Canada publication "Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines 3rd Edition" (2004) for safe handling, containment, facilities, and training. The granting councils require adoption of these guidelines for research funding.
- 4.2 **POLICY:**
- 4.2.1 The Biohazards Safety Committee acts on behalf of UNB's Vice President (Research) and is responsible for ensuring appropriate protocols and facilities for the use of biohazardous material are in place. The Committee meets periodically to review grant applications, procedures, and facilities.
- 4.2.2 All applications for research funding must be accompanied by an "Application for Approval of Projects Involving Biohazards" that has been reviewed by the Biohazards Safety Committee and bears the signature of the applicant's department chairperson.
- 4.2.3 Projects receiving Committee approval will be provided with a "Biohazards Containment Certification Report of the Biohazards Safety Committee," which is valid for two years and subject to an annual inspection of facilities.
- 4.2.4 Principal investigator are responsible for implementing biosafety programs in their laboratories, including the use of appropriate biosafety techniques, provision of appropriate containment levels and training.

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- 4.2.5 Containment facilities must be inspected and certified annually to the CSA standard by a trained service technician. Records must be maintained.
- 4.3 IMPORTATION: Permits are required in order to import any human, animal, or plant pathogens into Canada.
 - 4.3.1 Permits for human pathogens may be requested from:
 - Director, Office of Biosafety, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
 - Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2
 - Tel: (613) 957-1779
 - 4.3.2 Permits for animal or plant pathogens may be requested from:
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - 59 Camelot Drive, Nepean, Ontario K1A 0Y9
 - Tel: (613) 952-8000
 - 4.3.3 Applications for permits must bear the signature of the applicant's department chairperson and the UNB purchasing manager.
- 4.4 SHIPPING:
 - 4.4.1 The transportation of biohazardous material in Canada is regulated by the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act. Use of regular mail for shipment of infectious substances is prohibited. Transportation by public carrier of Risk Groups III and IV infectious substances affecting humans requires an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) application checklist.
 - 4.4.2 Prior to placing an order with the supplier, an ERAP must be filed with:
 - The Director General:
 - Transportation of Dangerous Goods Directorate, Transport Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5
 - Tel: (613) 992-4624
 - 4.4.3 Biohazardous material shall be shipped in CSA standard packaging to prevent discharge during transport.
- 4.5 DISPOSAL:
 - 4.5.1 All biohazardous waste shall be rendered harmless or noninfectious by chemical decontamination or heat sterilization (autoclaving) and taken to the building's designated area for pickup and disposal.

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- 4.5.2 Biomedical waste, such as sharps, human blood, and body fluids, shall be collected in CSA standard containers and taken to the building's designated area for pickup and disposal.
- 4.6 INFORMATION: See Biohazardous Application Form (contained in the Biohazards Approval: Biohazards Containment Certification Report Form)

5.0 Interpretation and Questions

- 5.1 For copies of Health Canada's Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines or for general information on biohazardous materials, contact: Polly Brinkman-Mills, Department of Biology, University of New Brunswick