

FORWARD

This policy and procedures manual was developed by the University of Washington Environmental Health and Safety Department to provide information to protect workers and the surrounding environment and to achieve compliance with applicable standards and regulations. The University of Washington Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) approved this revision with the expectation that updates will be necessary as changes in regulations, policies and procedures dictate.

The premise is that safety is a top priority for all experiments. Planning for and implementation of biohazard controls to prevent laboratory-associated infections and to control the spread of contamination must be a part of every laboratory activity in which biohazardous agents, including recombinant or synthetic DNA/RNA, are used.

The handling of biohazardous agents, including recombinant or synthetic nucleic DNA/RNA, requires the use of various precautionary measures depending on the agent(s) involved. It is the purpose of this manual to provide general guidelines for evaluation, containment, and control of biohazards, categorized as to degree of risk of infection.

Implementation of these policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator and depends largely on the efforts of laboratory supervisors and employees. It is essential that they seek additional advice and training when needed to conduct research in a manner that is safe to employees, students, and the surrounding community. To assist in this endeavor, the services of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety are available at the University of Washington.

First Edition – July 1978
Second Edition – January 1993
Updated – July 1997
Administrative Changes – January 2003
Updated – March 2013
Updated – October 2014
Updated – January 2017



