New! Resource Documents

The following two documents are now available on the Biosafety Program webpages as a resource for Biosafety Permit holders and their staff.

**Guidelines for the Safe Handling of Sharps** - Sharps injuries continue to be a concern in research settings where a variety of needles, scalpels and other sharps are in use. This document discusses the general best practices for using and disposing of all types of sharps as well as providing some more item-specific recommendations and links to safety-device resources.

**Biological Agent Incident Response and Reporting Procedures** – This document provides a more comprehensive overview of the response and reporting requirements for Biosafety Permit holders and their lab personnel as it relates to a biological agent incident at the U of M. As based on the CBSG requirements, an incident can include:

- a **potential or actual exposure** to a biological agent
- an **injury or near-miss incident related to work with biological agents** OR
- a **potential or actual theft, loss or intentional misuse** of an agent.

Provincial Workplace Safety & Health legislation currently requires employers to have an incident reporting and investigation program in place. Additionally, when the HPTA comes into full effect in Dec. 2015 (read more on this on page 2), Section 13 will require that license holders (this will include the U of M) inform the Agency (PHAC) of all incidents that have or may have caused disease. Section 15 of the HPTA will require all persons working under the authority of a licence to inform their licence holder of incidents.

The intention of the legislation is that in this way from the ground up, exposures should be reported in a timely, complete and consistent manner to improve information at the institution level as well as at the national level. PHAC is developing an on-line reporting tool to facilitate compliance with this licence requirement. All reporting will maintain the anonymity of the organization and personnel involved.
New!  Biosafety Program Webpages

We were busting at the seams! We have recognized for a while that the Biosafety Program webpage was overloaded, making it hard to find specific information. We hope you find it easier to find items now that the Biosafety Program information is organized on five (5) main pages reflecting the main program elements as follows:

Biosafety Program - The homepage includes:
- a link to all BIO webpages,
- links to the important regulatory sites and
- a NEW! Section where we will post items new to the program.

Biosafety Permits – In addition to the instructions for obtaining a Biosafety permit this page now includes quick instructions for submitting amendments and permit terminations.

Biosafety Training - Biosafety training powerpoint, Generic Biosafety Quiz and link to PHAC Biosafety e-learning modules.

Biosafety Project Approval Certificates - The BSAC meeting dates are easy to find on the posted table as well as the internal and external BPAC forms and the new Applicant’s checklist to assist with your application.

Biosafety Manual – U of M Biosafety Guide & Appendices and other guidelines and resources. (Regulatory info will be updated over the winter to reflect the new standards)

Quick Links – in the right-hand column of every page is a link to all the sections and other frequently used sites including the database log-in site, waste chart, CBSG, U of M Biosafety Policy and Procedure, and incident response and reporting.

Human Pathogens and Toxins Regulations (HPTR) and the Canadian Biosafety Standards (CBS) 2nd Edition

In 2009 certain sections of the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (HPTA) came into force. Section 70 required any person responsible for activities involving human pathogens and toxins to register their facility. The University of Manitoba registered at that time.

December 2015 all sections of the HPTA will come into force, and along with it the final version of the Human Pathogens and Toxins Regulations (HPTR) and the Canadian Biosafety Standards (CBS) 2nd Edition. The draft HPTR and draft CBS were released June 20, 2014 and will be open for comment until September 4, 2014. The CBS continues in the vision of the Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines (CBSG) of a risk, evidence- and performance-based approach and also includes several new requirements in support of the full implementation of the HPTA and HPTR. The current Guideline section (Part II) of the CBSG will be transitioned into a separate document, the Biosafety Handbook.
Information Sessions on the HPTA Program & Regulatory Framework

Part of the final stakeholder consultation process has also included webcast information session hosted by The Centre for Biosecurity. The webcast for each session is currently available online for your viewing until the end of August.

For a better understanding of the Regulatory framework of the HPTA/HPTR, information is available here.

FAQs on the Canadian Biosafety Standards

Scope of the HPTA

There has been much enquiry over the biological agents covered by the scope of the HPTA. The Centre has developed four Statements of Administrative Intent (SAI) to provide a clearer understanding.

1. **Cell and Cell Lines**: Explains that Cell and Cell lines are derived from human and animal sources and that when a Cell or Cell Line contains a Risk 2, Risk 3 or Risk Group 4 human pathogen or toxins as defined in the HPTA then it is controlled under its authority.

2. **Exclusions from the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (HPTA)**: When a human pathogen and toxin is found in the natural environment or in a regulated drug then it is not subject to the HPTA.

3. **Defining the term Micro-organism in the context of the HPTA**: Defines the term microorganism as an organism which is too small to be visible to the naked eye (i.e., microscopic). It also specifies that when a microorganism meets the definition of Risk Group 2, Risk Group 3, or Risk Group 4 as defined in the HPTA then it is human pathogen and is controlled under its authority.

4. **The HPTA Application to Helminths**: Specifies that when a Helminth meets the definition of Risk Group 2, Risk Group 3, or Risk Group 4 as defined in the HPTA then it is human pathogen and is controlled under its authority.