

## Biological Safety Advisory Committee

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Biosafety Policy and Procedure Statement: Biological Agent Storage Permits 2019

## <u>Statement</u>

A new class of Biosafety Program Permit has been created to permit inactive biological agent users to store their agents without holding a full Biosafety Program Permit. This new permit class does not provide proof of an approved biosafety risk assessment for the release of grant funds, and does not provide approval to undertake work with live biological agents.

A Biological Agent Storage Permit is subject to the following special conditions

- 1. Storage Permit holders are exempt from training requirements.
- 2. Storage Permit applicants are not required to submit a Biosafety Program Permit application or biosafety risk assessment for approval by the committee.
- 3. The Office of Research Services, the department head, and the Associate Dean of Research will be notified that the permit holder no longer holds a valid Biosafety Permit for the use of live biological agents.
- 4. Grant funds for work with live biological agents will not be released until a valid Biosafety Program Permit application and biosafety risk assessment are complete.
- 5. The Storage Permit will be limited to one lab facility/room.
- 6. Biological agents will be stored in a freezer or equivalent equipment.
- 7. The Storage Permit applicant will submit a whole room decommissioning document to show that all in use biological agents have been removed and/or disposed according to the University Biological Agent Waste Standard. Disposal is not required for stored agents.
- 8. The Storage Permit applicant is subject to the same qualification criteria required for Biosafety Program Permit applicants/holders.
- 9. Storage Permits must be renewed.

In order to resume work with live biological agents the permit holder must submit a full Biosafety Program Permit application and meet all the qualifications and compliance conditions for a full permit.

## Rationale

Biosafety Program Permits have been implemented on a first come first served basis starting in December 2018. On the date of writing 65% of Biosafety Permit holders have come into the new permit system to facilitate their research needs such as the release of grant funds or update of facility information. Among the remaining low frequency users who have not adopted the new system it is recognized that some

biosafety permit holders rarely if ever submit amendments or changes to their permits. These permit holders may no longer actively use live biological agents and may no longer require a permit to manipulate those materials. At the same time, those users may wish to maintain possession of their biological agents in anticipation of restarting their research with those materials in future or to find new users to take possession. In order to simplify and streamline the administrative processes for these users and Biosafety Program implementers the new Biological Agent Storage Permit has been created.

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