



Office of the Vice
Provost for Research

Office of
Biotechnology

**Industry Tip
Sheet -
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Compliance: Biohazards and Public Health

The 1986 Federal Register required all institutions receiving support for recombinant DNA research from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to form a biosafety committee to oversee research involving recombinant DNA. The responsibility of the ISU institutional biosafety committee was later expanded to include hazardous biological materials, including recombinant DNA, transgenic plants or animals, infectious agents (of humans, animals, or plants), toxins of biological origin, and administration of experimental biological products to animals. The following information describes the activities of ISU's Biohazards and Public Health Committee (BPHC).

Responsibilities of the Biohazards and Public Health Committee

The BPHC reviews and sets conditions for conducting research and teaching that involves hazardous biological materials, recombinant DNA, or transgenic animals, reviews programs involving biological safety and public health protection at ISU, and sets policies that comply with federal, state, and local regulations. These responsibilities include assessing the adequacy of laboratory facilities, containment and safety practices, the appropriate training and expertise of project personnel, and compliance with all applicable regulations. In addition, the University must report any significant problems, violations, accidents, or illnesses associated with recombinant DNA usage to the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities.

Application and Authorization

The ISU Biohazards and Public Health Committee Project Review Form must be completed and submitted to the Office of Research Compliance prior to conducting research with hazardous biological materials. The project can be approved, require modifications to secure approval, or can be denied. If the project is not approved, a written notification will be provided that explains the decision and identifies possible conditions or modifications to the project that would make it acceptable. For projects that require approval of both the BPHC and the Committee on Animal Care (COAC), a single application may be filed, the ISU Research Compliance Review Form – Use of Animals in Research, including the appropriate biohazardous agent sections. The single application is submitted to the COAC, but is reviewed by both committees. Each committee issues a separate approval.

Annual Renewal

Authorization for ongoing projects must be renewed annually. Every five years, a new application must be submitted and reviewed by the BPHC. As a courtesy, the principal investigator will receive a reauthorization reminder approximately 60 days before the authorization anniversary date.

Reminder: The use of animals in a research project requires additional approval from the ISU Committee on Animal Care and the use of human subjects in a research project requires approval from the ISU Institutional Review Board.

Contact Information: Additional information about BPHC policies and procedures can be found at: <http://www.compliance.iastate.edu/bphcHome.aspx>. For questions, please contact Narda Huyke, BPHC Administrator, at nardah@iastate.edu, 294-5412.

This Tip Sheet was originally published as version 3.4 and has been updated to reflect current policies and personnel. If you have any questions about this tip sheet or working with industry, please contact: Lisa Lorenzen, 2810 Beardshear Hall, Phone: (515) 294-0926, Email: llorenze@iastate.edu