Management and operation of microbiological containment laboratories

The new guidelines "*Management and operation of microbiological containment laboratories*" will replace ACDP's 2001 publication "*The management, design and operation of microbiological containment laboratories*" and the 2005 publication "*Biological agents: Managing the risks in laboratories and healthcare premises*" except Part 2 "Working in Healthcare" which will remain as a standalone document.

This new publication is intended to provide the benchmark for laboratory work at containment levels 2 and 3 including relevant links to requirements of the Specified Animal Pathogens Order(s) 2008, 2009 and Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) 2014 Regulations. In addition to containment requirements, the guidance covers fumigation; sealability; spillage procedures; microbiological safety cabinets and waste management. It is envisaged that in the future this 'core document' will be supplemented by electronically linked topic-specific guidance including guidance on cell cultures, work with infected arthropods and clinical cytogenetics.

Feedback on the draft guidance

Please provide comments in response to the following questions. Once completed, please email to HSE at: microbiologicalhazardspolicy@hse.gov.uk no later than **Friday 17 June 2016.**

Part 1 – About you?

Q1. Please provide details of who you are and indicate (by providing contact details) if you are content to be contacted should we need to ask you for clarification or additional information in respect of your response	
Name:	**Sarah May, Deputy Chief Executive**
Organisation:	**Institute of Biomedical Science**
Contact details (Tel. or email):	**sarahmay@ibms.org**
Date:	**17.06.16**

Part 2 – What are your views on the revised guidance?

Q2. Are there any significant errors or omissions in the following sections? When answering yes or no, this should reflect whether you are broadly content or otherwise with the section. Please provide details of any suggested changes in the comments box.

	Question	Yes/No	Comments
2.1	Section 1 - Introduction	NO	
2.2	Section 2 - Management arrangements - Biosafety	NO	
2.3	Section 3 - Principles of design and operation	NO	
2.4	Section 4 - Assessing and controlling the risk	NO	
2.5	Section 5 - Selection and application of containment and control measures	NO	
2.6	Section 6 - Deliberate work with Specified Animal Pathogens	NO	
2.7	Appendix 1- Containment tables	NO	
2.8	Appendix 2 - Microbiological safety cabinets	NO	
2.9	Appendix 3 - Fumigation and sealability	NO	
2.10	Appendix 4 - Microbiological waste in laboratory facilities	NO	
2.11	Appendix 5 - Transport of infectious substances	YES	Page 110 figure 2: classification question 4 appears incomplete Page 111 section 28: typo UN3773 documented instead of UN3373 Page 113 table 1: the table suggests that a culture of a clinical sample from a patient known or suspected to be infected with HepB

			or HIV should transported under category A conditions where as a blood sample from such a patient would be transported via category B conditions. Text seems to suggest that any isolate such as Staph.aureus for example from a patient with HIV would need to be referred to reference lab under category A conditions. If this is not the message being portrayed then the section possibly needs re-wording.
2.12	Appendix 6 - Dealing with accidents involving spillage of biological agents	NO	
2.13	Appendix 7 - Respiratory protective equipment	NO	
2.14	References	NO	
2.15	Are there any relevant legislative/mandatory requirements that have not been included in this guidance document?	NO	
2.16	Overall does the draft guidance fulfil the objective of ensuring safe handling of biological agents in microbiological containment laboratories	YES	

Part 3 – What is the likely impact of the guidance?

Q3 – The following questions are intended to provide an indication of the net cost or impact of the revised guidance on business		
	Question	**Please use box below to provide your response**
3.1	Considering the guidance as a whole, is the revised guidance likely to have a positive or negative impact on your ability to work safely in microbiological containment laboratories?	Positive impact – comprehensive, informative document

3.2	Considering the guidance as a whole, is the revised guidance likely to incur any significant costs to you with respect to working in microbiological containment laboratories? If so, please let us know why this would be; whether the costs will be ongoing or one-off; whether they will mean spending money, and, if so, how much; or whether it will mean spending person-hours to review or make changes, and, if so, who those people would be and how many person-hours it would take.	More likely to impact on staff time to ensure compliance with new guidance; this responsibility would ultimately lie with laboratory managers but would be delegated to the laboratory health and safety representatives and/or quality manager.
3.3	In your industry, what proportion of businesses do you expect will read the new guidance when it comes out to familiarise with any changes? a. Pretty much all (90-100%) b. Most (60-89%) c. About half (40-59%) d. Some (10-39%) e. Pretty much none (0-9%)	A
3.4	In your industry, what proportion of businesses do you expect will refer to guidance on an ongoing basis as part of their day-to-day work? a. Pretty much all (90-100%) b. Most (60-89%) c. About half (40-59%) d. Some (10-39%) e. Pretty much none (0-9%)	A
3.5	For those businesses that will refer to the guidance on an ongoing basis, would they be more likely to be reading the whole document or to be looking up particular issues?	Whole document initially then selective reading thereafter

3.6	For those businesses that will refer to the guidance on an ongoing basis, how often will they do so? a. Every day b. Once a week c. Once a month d. Every three months e. Every six months f. Once a year	Annually

Part 4 – Do you have any additional comments?

Q4. Any further comments (please use box below to write any additional comments):