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To Vice-President/Deans, Heads of Schools  
From Dr Melanie Taylor, University Safety Advisor  
Date 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
cc Prof M Case, Prof S Turner, Dr J Brider, Dr S A Robson, Dr D Barker,  
School Biological Safety Advisors & Safety Representatives  
Reference Circular 4/2007

## Biological and GM safety update

The University Biological Safety Advisor and colleagues in the safety team have been developing guidance on several topics that regularly crop up in enquiries to us. These documents have now been approved by the University's GM & Biohazards Safety Advisory Group.

### **GM laboratory self-inspection checklist**

This checklist is available at

[http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/bio\\_gm/lab\\_self-inspection\\_form.doc](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/bio_gm/lab_self-inspection_form.doc) and should form part of local arrangements to control and manage biological / GM risks. It is designed for use by Principal Investigators, to aid their objective and structured assessment of how health and safety arrangements work in their own areas. Local GM safety committees should play a fundamental role in planning which projects / laboratories should use the checklist to make returns to them within specified timescales and frequencies, depending on the nature of the risks. The checklist includes questions about physical containment and management arrangements. Initial feedback from pilot use has been very encouraging, but I would welcome further comments on how the checklist is being used.

### **Ethidium bromide**

This guidance note on the Safe Use and Disposal of EtBr is now on our webpages at [http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/ethidium\\_bromide.pdf](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/ethidium_bromide.pdf)

### **Transport of dangerous goods materials**

This is a very complex area of health and safety regulation, and our new guidance note focuses on UN class 6.2 : infectious substances. It covers classification, packaging, labelling and transport, and is available at

[http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/bio\\_gm/transport\\_of\\_dangerous\\_goods.pdf](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/bio_gm/transport_of_dangerous_goods.pdf).

### **Microbiological Safety Cabinets (MSCs)**

Information on the selection, installation, maintenance and operation of MSCs for use in containment level 2 (CL2) laboratories is at

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/mscs.doc>

Guidance includes air flow diagrams to assist in understanding their modes of operation – essential for their proper and effective use.

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