

To Vice-Presidents/Deans, Heads of Schools and Research Institutes, HoFAs
From Dr Melanie Taylor, Head of Safety Services
Date 10 May 2011
cc Prof M Case, Prof S Turner, Dr D Barker, School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives
Reference Safety Circular 2/2011

Biological Safety Update

Action: HOSs are asked to note developments relating to the 3 topics described below, and to ensure their local Bio/GM and Safety Committees discuss any implications for their practices and procedures.

DEFRA regulatory regime for material posing a risk to flora and fauna

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) operates a regulatory regime for such material. The regime may take the form of either approved general licences / authorisations or specific licences. Further information can be found at:

http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/Technical_Briefing_Notes/Importation_of_material_posing_an_animal_and_plant_health_risk.pdf

Importation of material posing a poliomyelitis risk

Polio remains endemic in only four countries: Nigeria, India (specifically Uttar Pradesh and Bihar), Pakistan and Afghanistan. Samples of soil or water, and clinical samples, from these areas may be contaminated and should be considered as a potential source of polio virus. Anyone storing such material should inform the University Biosafety Advisor.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/Technical_Briefing_Notes/polio_risk.pdf

Single Regulatory Framework for Work with Human and Animal Pathogens and Genetically Modified Organisms

Draft regulations were due to be issued in September 2010 and implemented in April 2011. The regulations have been further delayed due to the government review on health and safety legislation. The Health and Safety at Work Act has been amended and changes to the Regulations is likely to go through although no time scale can be given until after the wider review. Further information may be posted on the HSE's site at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/callaghan.htm>

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