

To Vice-Presidents/Deans, Heads of Schools, HoFAs
From Dr Melanie Taylor
Date 19 December 2008
cc Prof M Case, Prof S Turner, Dr D Barker, Dr S A Robson, School
Biological Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives, Mrs R Valentine
Reference Safety Circular 9/2008

New University biosafety documents

For schools and research institutes working with biohazards – please
a) **circulate to your staff and students, and**
b) **ensure your health & safety committee is made aware of the new guidance**

The following new documents have been discussed by the University's GM and Biosafety Advisory Group and are now available on the Health & Safety Services webpages.

1. Revised guidance on the remit of Local Genetic Modification (GM) and Biohazards Safety Committees. The guidance highlights the roles and responsibility of this committee and its pivotal role in biosafety management.
http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/GM&Bio_safety_committee_remit-g.pdf
2. New guidance on working with blood and body fluids. The document set out the factors to consider when assessing and controlling the risks for research activities involving blood and body fluids.
http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/blood_and_body_fluids-g.pdf
3. The guidance note on completing COSHH assessment and application form for handling biological materials has been amended to clarify containment measures.
http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/bio_gm/BioCOSHH_notes.doc
4. Schools have a variety of equipment which uses and/or stores water and which may give rise to a Legionella risk. To help comply with the HSE Approved Code of Practice & Guidance – L8 on Legionnaires Disease, guidance for schools on the control of legionella has been prepared, at
http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/legionella_in_school_equipment-guidance.pdf

Note: Estates have comprehensive procedures and guidance notes to deal with the building systems they manage (eg water supplies to taps; water in building heating and cooling systems).

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