

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

CONTAINMENT LEVEL 2 BIOSAFETY PROCEDURES

In addition to the BASIC BIOSAFETY PROCEDURES required for all laboratories handling infectious substances, the following describe the minimum operational practices required for containment level 2.

1. Good microbiological laboratory practices intended to avoid the release of infectious agents are to be employed.
2. BSCs must be used for procedures that may produce infectious aerosols and that involve high concentrations or large volumes of biohazardous material. Laboratory supervisors, in consultation with the Biological Safety Officer/Institutional Biosafety Committee, should perform a risk assessment to determine which procedures and what concentrations and volumes necessitate the use of a BSC.
3. Appropriate signage indicating the nature of the hazard being used (e.g., biohazard sign, containment level) must be posted outside each laboratory; if infectious agents used in the laboratory require special provisions for entry, the relevant information must be included on the sign; the contact information of the laboratory supervisor or other responsible person(s) must also be listed.
4. Entry must be restricted to laboratory staff, animal handlers, maintenance staff and others on official business.
5. All people working in the containment area must be trained in and follow the operational protocols for the project in process. Trainees must be accompanied by a trained staff member. Visitors, maintenance staff, janitorial staff and others, as deemed appropriate, must also be provided with training and/or supervision commensurate with their anticipated activities in the containment area.
6. Emergency procedures for spill clean-up, BSC failure, fire, animal escape and other emergencies must be written, easily accessible and followed. A record must be made of other people entering the facility during an emergency.