

Definitions

Biosafety

Laboratory biosafety describes the containment principles, technologies and practices that prevent exposure to pathogens and toxins, or their accidental release.

Biological laboratory

Biological laboratories include clinical laboratories, diagnostic facilities, regional and public health laboratories, research centers (academic, pharmaceutical, environmental, etc.) and production facilities (manufacturers of vaccines, pharmaceuticals, genetically modified organisms, etc) for human, veterinary and agricultural purposes.

Biorisk

The probability or chance that an event (accidental infection or unauthorized access, loss, theft, misuse, diversion or intentional release), possibly leading to harm.

Hazard

A danger or source of danger which cause harm.

Valuable Biological Materials (VBM): may include pathogens and toxins, as well as non-pathogenic organisms, vaccine strains, foods, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), cell components, genetic elements, and extraterrestrial samples.

Laboratory biosecurity

Laboratory biosecurity describes the protection for valuable biological materials within laboratories.

Reference:

WHO. Biorisk management. Laboratory biosecurity guidance. September 2006.
WHO/CDS/EPR/2006.6.

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