

Agenda for the 7th meeting of the Biosafety Committee of the University of Hong Kong. (A sub-committee of the Safety Health and Environment Committee).

To be held on **Friday, 20th May at 10.00 a.m. in the 1st Floor Library of the Main Safety Office, Cheung Yuet Ming Physics building.**

1. Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Biosafety Committee (May 2010)

To confirm the minutes of the 6th meeting which are included as Appendix A.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the 6th meeting.

3. Clinical waste regulations

Regulations first proposed in 2006 for the disposal of clinical waste in Hong Kong are a step nearer enactment and are likely to be endorsed by LEGCO this year. The paper included as Appendix B summarizes the legislation, our current scheme and the changes required to meet the new requirements. Members are asked for comment and suggestions on how best to implement the scheme in the University.

4. GMO (Control of Release) Ordinance Cap 607

The Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap 607) and its subsidiary legislation the Genetically Modified Organisms (Document for Import and Export) Regulation took effect on the 1st March 2011. The objective of the ordinance is to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Hong Kong. The paper included as Appendix C summarizes the ordinance and regulations. Members are asked how their department ships biological materials within Hong Kong and abroad and if this regulation has changed their procedures?

5. Fluorescent Activated Cell Sorting (FACS) of unfixed cells Following our discussion (point 5 of the last meeting) where we adopted the International Society for Analytical Cytology document [Schmidt et al (2007), Cytometry (A) 71(6):414-37] as University guidance on the fluorescent activated cell sorting of unfixed materials the Faculty of Medicine has established a core facility for FACS. There is currently a debate in the UK about the appropriate containment for sorting unfixed cells. Appendix D (attached) summarizes some of the issues, includes a questionnaire that is required to be filled in by anyone wishing to use the facility and makes a number of proposals for which members are asked for comment, suggestions and ultimately approval.

6. Guidance on Decontamination (originally considered at the last meeting) has been revised in line with our discussion and is tabled as Appendix E. Members are invited to comment and if agreed, approve the document.

7. Promotion of risk assessment for biohazardous work. Over the last year the BSO has reviewed around 5 risk assessment forms that detailed work with retrovirus vectors (RA3 form). While this is an improvement over previous years it is likely to be a significant underestimate of the work being carried out using virus vectors. Appendix F contains a number of examples of risk assessment. This includes an example of an RA3

assessment for lentivirus work with the comments made on it, comments on a CULATR application made by the BSO - which can in itself be viewed as a risk assessment and a more "freehand" assessment made in response to a request from a Post-Doctoral worker. Views of the committee are sought on the value of risk assessments and the ease or otherwise of carrying them out. Is it possible to get those that work with biohazardous agents to see risk assessments as valuable guides to safe working rather than formal bureaucratic requirements?

8. Any other business.

To consider any business not otherwise on the agenda.

9. Date of next meeting.