

Resources for International Biosafety Guidelines and Regulations

Determining the appropriate safety guidelines and regulations relevant to a given experiment is the first step in any research study. To facilitate this process when working with microorganisms, the reader is referred to <http://www.absa.org/resguides.html>, the Biosafety Guidelines website maintained by the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA). This comprehensive site not only provides direct links to several high-impact references, but also to the compendium maintained by the International Biosafety Working Group (IBWG), which researchers can use to search through an extensive list of international biosafety resources, including other databases appropriate to the investigation. Note that the IBWG compendium is currently hosted by the European Biosafety Association (EBSA; <http://www.ebsa.be>), which is itself a valuable resource.

The reader is also strongly advised to explore the ABSA home page (<http://www.absa.org/index.shtml>) and Resources and Tools page (<http://www.absa.org/restool.html>), both of which provide a wealth of biosafety information.

Table A.1B.1 provides a list of the resources available on the ABSA website. For general safety information, the reader is referred to the first section of Chapter 1, including *UNIT 1A.1*, which provides a discussion of general biosafety.

IMPORTANT NOTE: While an effort has been made to provide a starting point for the reader to begin their investigation into the appropriate safety precautions for their experiment, the resources presented here and at the websites mentioned should not be considered comprehensive. Ultimate responsibility for safety lies with the individual researcher. Please consult all appropriate safety resources prior to beginning any experiment.

Table A.1B.1 Resources Available from the American Biological Safety Association Biosafety Guidelines Website^a

Resource	Responsible Agency
<i>Laboratory Biosafety Manual, Third Edition</i>	World Health Organization
<i>NIH Guidelines on Recombinant DNA Molecules</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health
<i>Primary Containment for Biohazards: Selection, Installation and Use of Biological Safety Cabinets</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institutes of Health
<i>Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, Fourth Edition</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institutes of Health
<i>Guidelines for the Safe Transport of Infectious Substances and Diagnostic Specimens</i>	World Health Organization, Division of Emerging and Other Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Control
<i>The Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines, Third Edition</i>	Public Health Agency of Canada, Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Office of Laboratory Security
NIH Design Criteria for Laboratory Construction website	U.S. Office of Research Facilities
International Biosafety Working Group website ^b	International Biosafety Working Group

^a Available at <http://www.absa.org/resguides.html>.

^b This site is currently hosted by the European Biosafety Association (EBSA; <http://www.ebsa.be>) and is accessed by selecting International Biosafety from the EBSA homepage.