

## Health and Safety Office

### Guidance on Transportation of GM Materials between University Premises

The following is a list of issues that should be considered by GM licensees when they are planning to move their licensed genetically modified material (microbes, animals, plants) from one part of the university premises to another part which is situated in the immediate vicinity even if a public road separates them. Many elements in the list below will also apply to the movement of GM materials within and between laboratories in the same building.

Each university GM licensee is ultimately responsible for the containment of their own GM material both during the move and at the final destination (the laboratory or associated facility). This is required and implied under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2001.

These elements should inform the risk assessment that each licensee is required to record for any movement of GM material.

1. Name of licensee
2. Unit name of licensee
3. Emergency contact number of licensee or delegated person
4. GM Licence number
5. Class of GM (1 or 2)
6. Containment level for GM (1 or 2)
7. Name(s) of GM
8. Source address of GM material (which lab name and number it is coming from)
9. Destination address of GM material (including destination name or number of refrigerator or vessel and the destination room number)
10. Transit containment arrangements to include as appropriate:
  - a. The primary receptacle containing the GM specimens (such as an Eppendorf tube) and must be:
    - i. Watertight
    - ii. Leakproof
    - iii. Appropriately labelled as to content
    - iv. Wrapped in enough absorbent material to absorb all fluid in case of breakage or leakage
  - b. The secondary containment to enclose and protect the primary (such as a suitable 'lunch box'-type container) and must be:
    - i. Watertight
    - ii. Leakproof
    - iii. Suitable to contain, where appropriate, several allied primary receptacles
    - iv. Appropriately labelled as to contents
  - c. The tertiary containment to enclose and protect secondary units (such as a polystyrene/Styrofoam or cardboard box) and must be:
    - i. Rigid and damage free
    - ii. Suitable to contain its contents during transit and handling (including stacking)
    - iii. Appropriately labelled as to contents
    - iv. Appropriate labelled as to Containment Class (1 or 2)

- v. Appropriately labelled with both source and specific destination addresses (see items 7 and 8 above)
  - vi. Appropriately labelled with emergency contact details
11. Transit spill arrangements:
- a. Determine if the spilled material is (or potentially) infectious or environmentally harmful.
  - b. Specify a spill SOP, to include elements of the following:
    - i. Reporting protocol and contact numbers
    - ii. Spill containment management, technique and training
    - iii. Particular PPE, gloves, eye and face protection
    - iv. Absorbent booms or paper towels or granules
    - v. Scoops, dustpans, buckets, forceps
    - vi. Appropriate cordoning and A-frame usage
    - vii. Appropriate disinfectant
    - viii. Clean-up, safe management of contaminated laboratory equipment etc, and final disposal protocols
    - ix. Washing and personal decontamination arrangements
    - x. Spill incident report writing, including to safety Office and to the EPA where necessary
12. Associated hazards. The GMs may be associated or present with other hazards, such as chemicals/carcinogens or may be deep frozen (with liquid nitrogen or dry ice). These hazards must be accounted for and risk reduction measures (normally applied in a laboratory context) must be applied.
13. Persons moving the material must be fully informed of the risk posed and the measures to reduce the risk of exposure during transit.
14. Moving GM materials on the public highway are not subject to the ADR (European Agreement for the Movement of Dangerous Goods by Road) for the university as the volumes and hazard ratings are exempt. However, if a service provider/move contractor is used they may be subject to the ADR. Their own risk assessment and method plan for the move should specify this
15. Moving liquid nitrogen dewars (containing GMs if necessary) will be subject to the particular risk assessment for LN handling. Avoidance of asphyxiation and burns are the main issues here. Again, ADR for liquid nitrogen is not an issue for the university but may be for service providers/move contractors.
16. The EPA must be notified of the move of the GM material in the appropriate fashion, including such details as room numbers, floor numbers and building names.

END

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