

February 26, 2015

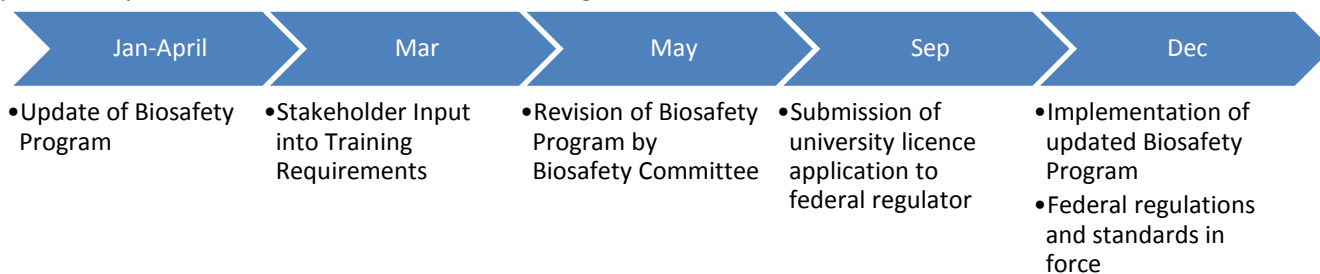
To: Biosafety Permit holders, Laboratory Supervisors, Biosafety Committee, Associate Deans (Research) for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Science, Engineering and Kinesiology

***Biosafety Program Update Plan 2015 – Human Pathogens and Toxins Regulations
& Canadian Biosafety Standards***

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the plan for updating the Biosafety Program to meet legislative requirements. Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is developing Human Pathogens and Toxins Regulations & Canadian Biosafety Standards. Representatives from the university have provided responses throughout this multi-year process (see below) and continue to work on strategies to improve the Biosafety Program.

Biosafety Program Update Plan is summarized below and forms the basis of the timelines and topics for which you can expect to receive communications throughout 2015.



University responses to the legislative consultations

- Phase I consultations (Jan 2012) - attended by the Biosafety Committee as well as Principal Investigators.
- Phase II consultations (June 2012) - Biosafety Committee submitted a collective response to PHAC. The official submission was followed up with a letter from the Vice-President (Research) reiterating topics of concern highlighted by the Biosafety Committee.
- Phase III consultations (March – May 2013) - Biosafety Officer attended consultations in Vancouver; and members of the Biosafety Committee and the research community attended a session in Calgary in May.
- Draft Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines - Biosafety Committee responded to the draft with over 120 comments.
- Publication of Draft Regulations and Draft Canadian Biosafety Standards (June 2014) – Biosafety Committee responded to the drafts

Thank you for your time and interest.
Eoin

Eoin O’Grady PhD

Manager, Occupational Health & Safety (Foothills & Spy Hill Campuses) and University Biosafety Officer
403.220.7509 epograde@ucalgary.ca