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Common containment and protective measures

Hospital rooms of level HR2

This is a courtesy translation of a reference document used by the Service Biosafety and Biotechnology as an annex to the advices provided to competent authorities or to applicants in the framework of regional decrees on the contained use of genetically modified organisms and/or pathogens.

Design features and technical characteristics of the hospital rooms

1. The room is a conventional hospital room.
2. The access doors into the room are equipped with an automatic closing system when they give access to a public area.
3. The room and its equipment must be made from materials easy to disinfect.

Safety equipment

4. If the inactivation of waste and/or residual biological waste matter is made by steam sterilization, an autoclave is located in the same building, close to the room.

Work practices and waste management

5. Access is restricted to personnel authorized by the supervisor, and informed about the potential risks.
6. The room access door is labelled with the biohazard symbol.
7. The use of personal protective equipment is required. Protective laboratory clothing is dedicated to the contained area and is not worn outside.
8. The waste management and/or residual biological waste matter satisfies the following conditions:
    - Contaminated waste and/or residual biological material and contaminated disposal are inactivated by an appropriate and validated method before disposal, e.g. by autoclaving or incineration. Incineration is performed in a licenced installation. Bags and containers used for collection of infectious waste are resistant, sealable, labelled with the biohazard symbol and closed before leaving the contained area.
    - Before washing, reuse and/or destruction, contaminated material (glassware, slides etc.) is inactivated by appropriate and validated means.
9. Monitoring for the presence of genetically modified product delivered to the patient, of biological fluids, excretions and secretions of the patient, may be necessary.

This document has been established by the Service Biosafety and Biotechnology in the framework of its task as technical expert laid down by the cooperation agreement of 25 April 1997. It has been established on the basis of the provisions of Regional Decrees on the contained use of GMO and/or pathogens. It presents in a common language the minimal containment requirements that facilities covered by these decrees should have. These requirements should be considered without prejudice to additional specific measures that could be imposed case by case within the framework of authorizations delivered by competent authorities in application of the above-mentioned Decrees.