Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

§ 121.13 Restricted experiments.

(a) An individual or entity may not conduct a restricted experiment with a VS select agent or toxin unless approved by and conducted in accordance with any conditions prescribed by the Administrator. In addition, an individual or entity may not conduct a restricted experiment with an overlap select agent or toxin unless approved by and conducted in accordance with any conditions prescribed by the Administrator and the HHS Secretary.

(b) Restricted experiments:

(1) Experiments utilizing recombinant DNA that involve the deliberate transfer of a drug resistance trait to select agents that are not known to acquire the trait naturally, if such acquisition could compromise the use of the drug to control disease agents in humans, veterinary medicine, or agriculture.

(2) Experiments involving the deliberate formation of recombinant DNA containing genes for the biosynthesis of toxins lethal for vertebrates at an LD₅₀ <100 ng/kg body weight.

(c) The Administrator may revoke approval to conduct any of the experiments in paragraph (b) of this section, or revoke or suspend a certificate of registration, if the individual or entity fails to comply with the requirements of this part.

(d) To apply for approval to conduct any of the experiments in paragraph (b) of this section, an individual or entity must submit a written request and supporting scientific information. A written decision granting or denying the request will be issued.

[70 FR 13284, Mar. 18, 2005, as amended at 73 FR 61331, Oct. 16, 2008]

§ 121.12 Biosafety.

(a) An individual or entity required to register under this part must develop and implement a written biosafety plan that is commensurate with the risk of the select agent or toxin, given its intended use. The biosafety plan must contain sufficient information and documentation to describe the biosafety and containment procedures.

(b) The biosafety and containment procedures must be sufficient to contain the select agent or toxin (e.g., physical structure and features of the entity, and operational and procedural safeguards).

(c) In developing a biosafety plan, an individual or entity should consider the following:

(1) The CDC/NIH publication, “Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories.” This document may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office. It is also available on the Internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/programs/ag_selectagent/index.html.


(d) The plan must be reviewed annually and revised as necessary. Drills or exercises must be conducted at least annually to test and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. The plan must be reviewed and revised, as necessary, after any drill or exercise and after any incident.

[70 FR 13284, Mar. 18, 2005, as amended at 73 FR 61331, Oct. 16, 2008]

9Technical assistance and guidance may be obtained by contacting APHIS.