

University of Louisville
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policies and Procedures

Hazardous Agent Review and Approval

Policy: Principal Investigators must comply with institutional policies and procedures when administering hazardous agents to research animals, including agents of biological, chemical, or radioactive origin. *Declaration of all potentially hazardous materials in the IACUC Proposal form is intrinsic to this requirement.* When required, failure to maintain an active registration with the Institutional Biosafety Committee or Radiation Safety Committee will result in *Proposal* approval delay or inactivation.

Rationale: As part of its commitment to protect all personnel from unreasonable risk, the University has established a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety Program Related to Animal Subjects to ensure the well-being of personnel who have contact with animals. Authorization to use hazardous agents is contingent upon completion of appropriate declaration and training. Projects and procedures that involve the use of biological agents (including, but not limited to plant, animal, or human pathogens and toxins, human source materials, recombinant DNA, viral vectors, and select agents), physical hazards (including, but not limited to radioactive materials, irradiation, lasers, noise, and magnets), and/or chemical agents (including, but not limited to carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, neurotoxins, acute toxins, and developmental toxins), must be reviewed and approved by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (DEHS); DEHS reviews may be done by the Institutional Biological Safety Office and/or the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Radiation Safety Office and/or Radiation Safety Committee (RSC), and/or assigned reviewer for chemical agents.

Procedures, Guidelines, and Exceptions:

1. Upon receipt of a *Proposal* in which hazardous agents are used, the IACUC Coordinator will assign the DEHS reviewer(s), or their designate(s), as reviewers.
2. The designated DEHS reviewer(s) will verify that the PI has appropriate records on file, if required, *e.g.*, an approved registration with the IBC or RSC. The designated DEHS reviewer(s) will include any compliance gaps as stipulations for IACUC *Proposal* approval.
3. Once the designated DEHS reviewer(s) has confirmed that appropriate contingencies have been met, the stipulation will be “accepted,” documenting her/his recommendation for *Proposal* approval.
4. IACUC reviewers are expected to assist in identifying any potentially hazardous agents not identified in the appropriate declaration sections and forward such information to the IACUC Coordinator as quickly as possible for transmittal and review by the appropriate DEHS reviewer(s).

Original Approval: 20 August 2005 (as two separate policies); 19 November 2015

Revised: 18 May 2018; 9 October 2020; 10 October 2023

Last Approval: 19 October 2023