

LABORATORY BIOSAFETY MANUAL
FOURTH EDITION
AND
ASSOCIATED MONOGRAPHS

BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINETS AND OTHER PRIMARY CONTAINMENT DEVICES



World Health
Organization

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Biological safety cabinets and other primary containment devices

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Glossary of terms

Aerosol: Liquid or solid particles suspended in air and of a size that may allow inhalation into the lower respiratory tract (usually less than 10 micrometres in diameter).

Aerosol-generating procedure: Any procedure that intentionally or inadvertently results in the creation of liquid or solid particles, which become suspended in the air (aerosols).

Biological agent: A microorganism, biological toxin, protein (prions) or human endoparasite, either naturally occurring or genetically modified, which may have the potential to cause infection, allergy, toxicity or otherwise create a hazard to human health, animals or plants.

Biosafety: Containment principles, technologies and practices that are implemented to prevent unintentional exposure to biological agents or their inadvertent release.

Calibration: Establishment of the relationship between the measurement provided by the instrument and the corresponding values of a known standard, allowing correction to improve accuracy. For example, laboratory equipment such as pipetting devices may need calibration periodically to ensure proper performance.

Certification: A third-party testimony based on a structured assessment and formal documentation confirming that a system, person or piece of equipment conforms to specified requirements, for example, to a certain standard.

Clean: Visually free of soil and below specified levels of analytes.

Consequence (of a laboratory incident): The outcome of an incident (exposure to and/or release of a biological agent) of varying severity of harm, occurring in the course of laboratory operations. Consequences may include a laboratory-associated infection,

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