LABORATORY BIOSAFETY MANUAL
FOURTH EDITION
AND
ASSOCIATED MONOGRAPHS

DECONTAMINATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

World Health Organization

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Decontamination and waste management

(Laboratory biosafety manual, fourth edition and associated monographs)

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Contents

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Glossary of terms

Available chlorine: A measure of the amount of chlorine available in hypochlorite compounds and other disinfectant chemicals, used as a source of chlorine, when compared with that of pure gaseous chlorine.

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.

Biological indicator: Test system containing viable biological agents providing a specified resistance to a specific sterilization process.

Biological safety cabinet (BSC): An enclosed, ventilated working space designed to provide protection to the operator, the laboratory environment and/or the work materials for activities where there is an aerosol hazard. Containment is achieved by segregation of the work from the main area of the laboratory and/or through the use of controlled, directional airflow mechanisms. Exhaust air is passed through a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter before recirculating into the laboratory or into the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. There are different classes (I, II and III) of BSCs that provide different levels of containment.

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

Biosecurity: Principles, technologies and practices that are implemented for the protection, control and accountability of biological materials and/or the equipment, skills and data related to their handling. Biosecurity aims to prevent their unauthorized access, loss, theft, misuse, diversion or release.

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