

Washington University in St. Louis
Institutional Biological & Chemical Safety Committee

Removal of Materials from BSL3 Laboratories

This policy has been developed to describe the general conditions under which live or inactivated biological agents may be removed from a biosafety level 3 (BSL3) laboratory. The specific conditions will vary depending on the agents in use and must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the WU Institutional Biological & Chemical Safety Committee (IBC) and Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) prior to removal of any biological agents from a BSL3 lab.

Removal of Infectious Materials

Infectious biological agents may only be removed from a BSL3 lab for immediate transport to another BSL3 facility (on- or off-campus). Prior to transport, the PI of the BSL3 lab must confirm that the receiving lab has the necessary approval and facility to safely handle agents at BSL3. For on-campus labs, PIs must contact WU Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) (747-0309) to confirm that the receiving lab meets these conditions. For off-campus labs, the PI of the WU BSL3 lab must obtain a letter, on official letterhead, from the receiving lab's Biosafety Officer indicating that the receiving lab is approved for use of the materials in question and has appropriate facilities and training. This documentation must be submitted to and approved by WU EH&S prior to shipment of materials. All shipments must be made in accordance with applicable EH&S shipping and transportation policies.

Removal of Inactivated Materials

Prior to removal of biological agents for use at a lower biosafety level, a validated inactivation procedure must be performed to render all material non-infectious. All inactivation procedures must be reviewed and approved by the WU IBC and EH&S prior to removal of inactivated material. The IBC will review published data and may require that the PI of the BSL3 lab demonstrate proficiency in the inactivation procedure prior to approving removal of the inactivated material. Depending on the agents or procedures in use, the IBC may also require that the PI periodically demonstrate that the inactivation procedure remains effective to verify that no changes in procedure or personnel training have impaired the inactivation method. If inactivated materials will be transferred to another lab, the approval process described in the "Removal of Infectious Materials" section must be followed.

Sanctions

Violations of this policy may result in University disciplinary action or regulatory fines and penalties. All penalties and fines are the responsibility of the University department in which the infraction occurred. Grant funding may not be used to pay regulatory fines or penalties.