



Date: 02nd September, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Handbook For Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), 2020

1. In accordance with "Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989 (known as Rules, 1989) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA, 1986), an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) shall be constituted by an occupier or any person including research institutions handling microorganisms/genetically engineered organisms. IBSC is to be constituted by every organization engaged in research, use & applications activities related to GE organisms (organisms include microorganisms, animals, plants, arthropods, aquatic animals, etc.) and hazardous microorganisms (microorganisms include parasites, protozoa, algae, fungi, bacteria, virus, prions etc.) and products produced through exploration of such organisms. IBSC serves as the nodal point within an organization for implementation of the biosafety regulatory framework.

2. In the past few years, several reforms in Indian Biotechnology Regulatory Framework have taken place to ensure safe and secure use of biotechnological processes and products. The reforms include decentralized regulatory powers to IBSC and implementation of a user-friendly online mechanism of regulatory process through Indian Biosafety Knowledge Portal (IBKP).

3. In view of these changes, the Handbook for IBSC has been updated through extensive deliberations by the Expert Committee constituted for this purpose and the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), DBT recommended the updated version.

The updated handbook for IBSC provides information on regulatory processes to be followed for research activities while dealing with GE organisms & non-GE hazardous microorganisms in line with Rules, 1989 and guidelines issued by DBT from time to time.

4. It provides guidance for composition, constitution and functions of IBSC's including steps of application evaluation, approval procedure, monitoring, compliance and online submissions through IBKP portal.
5. The "Handbook For Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), 2020" supersedes "Guidelines and Handbook for IBSC's" issued in 2011.
6. The "Handbook For Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), 2020" is notified at www.ditindia.nic.in & <https://ibsc.ditindia.gov.in>


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To,

1. All Institutional Biosafety Committees
2. Communication Cell, DBT