

ANIMAL BIOSAFETY REFERENCE GUIDE

EXPERIMENTAL ACTIVITY	MINIMAL ANIMAL BIOSAFETY LEVEL (applicable to housing, cage changes)	MINIMAL BIOSAFETY LEVEL (BSL) (applicable to administration, other procedures, necropsy)
Creation of Transgenic or Knockout Animals		
By commercial vendor or external institution	Not applicable	N/A
On campus	Contact the IBC Office	Contact the IBC Office
Purchase or Transfer of Transgenic or Knockout Animals		
Purchase or transfer of animals	ABSL-1 or higher (As determined by source)	N/A
Breeding or Maintenance of Transgenic or Knockout	Animals	
Breeding animals from one strain (propagation/colony maintenance) or two strains (generating new strain)	ABSL-1 or higher (Depending on nature of the genetic modification ¹)	BSL-1 or higher
Administration of Cells or Tissues to Animals (Transgenic or Otherwise)		
Unmodified host species (i.e. endogenous) cells	ABSL-1	BSL-1
Host species cells transduced with ecotropic ² retroviral vectors	ABSL-1	BSL-2
Host species cells transduced with amphotropic ³ or pantropic ⁴ retroviral vectors	ABSL-2 for 72 hours then ABSL-1	BSL-2
Host species cells transduced with adenovirus vectors	ABSL-2 for 72 hours then ABSL-1	BSL-2
Host species cells transduced with adeno- associated virus vectors		
contains less than 2/3 of a eukaryotic virial genome, AND does not express potentially toxic product (e.g., toxin, oncogene)	ABSL-1	BSL-1
contains more than 2/3 of a eukaryotic virial genome, OR expresses potentially toxic product	ABSL-2 for 72 hours then ABSL-1	BSL-2
Unmodified (established) human cell lines into immunocompromised animals	ABSL-1	BSL-2
Modified ⁵ human cell lines into immunocompromised animals	ABSL-2 for 72 hours then ABSL-1	BSL-2



ABSL-2	BSL-2		
Administration of Recombinant Viruses to Animals (Transgenic or Otherwise)			
Administration of Microorganisms to Animals (Transgenic or Otherwise)			
ABSL-1	BSL-1		
ABSL-2 (or higher depending on RG)	BSL-2 (or higher depending on RG)		
ABSL-2 (or higher)	BSL-2 (or higher)		
Set by NIH (case by case)	Set by NIH (case by case)		
	ABSL-2 ransgenic or Otherwise) genic or Otherwise) ABSL-1 ABSL-2 (or higher depending on RG) ABSL-2 (or higher) Set by NIH (case by case)		

¹ Higher containment levels are typically required if the modification (a) results in a tumorigenic phenotype (overexpression of a an oncogene or inactivation/deletion of a tumor suppressor); (b) results in expression of a toxin or other hazardous agent; (c) incorporates a transgene that is under the control of a gamma-retroviral long terminal repeat (LTR); (d) incorporates more than one-half of the genome of an exogenous eukaryotic virus from a single family of viruses; OR (e) results in progeny containing more than one-half of an exogenous viral genome from a single family of viruses.

² Viruses that are only infectious in the host species

³ Viruses that can infect more than one species

⁴ Viruses that can infect various tissues

⁵ Modifications include stable or transient genetic modifications, labeling, membrane loading, etc.