Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the requirements for laboratories involving BSL-2 containment at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). This document does not cover other requirements for research at CMU. For additional information, contact Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) at 412-268-8182.

Renovation/Construction of the Laboratory

Principal Investigators (PI) and/or Project Managers are required to contact the Biological Safety Officer BEFORE plans are made to renovate an existing laboratory or to construct a new laboratory where research involving BSL-2 containment is required. In addition, all renovations or construction must be done in accordance with “Carnegie Mellon University’s Guidelines for Design and Construction of Biosafety Containment Laboratories.”

Registration of Your Work

All work requiring BSL-2 containment must be registered and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) before work can begin. Please visit the IBC webpage for more information regarding this registration process.
Training Requirements
All personnel (including the PI) must attend Biological Safety Training prior to beginning work with materials that require BSL-2 containment. If your work involves human blood, human components, the use of bloodborne pathogens (i.e. HIV lentivirus, Hepatitis B, etc.), and/or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), Bloodborne Pathogens Training is also required. Furthermore, all personnel must complete Lab Safety/Hazardous Waste training, if they have not done so already. Please visit the EH&S training webpage for more information and to register for these classes.

Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) Certifications
New biological safety cabinets or cabinets which have been relocated must be certified prior to use and annually thereafter. EH&S has a contract with Filtech Inc. to certify all BSCs on campus. Please contact EH&S to obtain the PO information, and then call Filtech at 800-269-2540 to schedule your cabinet certification. A copy of the certification report and billing documents must be submitted to the Biological Safety Officer. Please send all copies to Andrew Lawson, Mail Drop 90, Mellon Institute. Alternatively, you may scan the documents and send them via email to alawson@andrew.cmu.edu.

Commissioning the Laboratory
Once the renovations or construction of the laboratory is complete, the laboratory must be commissioned prior to initiation of research. The commission process involves an inspection of your lab to ensure that the facilities are suitable for work involving BSL-2 containment. Please contact Andrew Lawson at 8-8405 or at alawson@andrew.cmu.edu to schedule a commissioning.

Our Mission:
Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) is committed to providing health and safety services that protect the University community and the environment.