



**DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA  
GORAKHPUR UNIVERSITY  
GORAKHPUR**

**POLICY  
DOCUMENT**

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

# **INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY POLICY AND COMMITTEE (IBC)**

## **INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY POLICY AND COMMITTEE (IBC)**

The institution's Biosafety Policy and a relevant committee are a must for the institutions working with hazardous microorganisms and /or GE organisms. The committee serves as a nodal point for implementation of the biosafety guidelines as released by DBT ("Handbook for Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) 2020") for such activity in the institution. Institutions handling risk-inherent microorganisms or GE organisms shall prepare, with the assistance of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), an on-site emergency plan and update it from time to time according to the manuals/guidelines of the RCGM and make available copies to the District Level Committee/State Biotechnology Co-ordination Committee and the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee. Adherence to the guideline shall be binding for all IBSCs.

### **INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBSC) IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE:**

- To implement and respond to institutional biosafety & biosecurity at the institution level and
- Evaluation of applications/ reports related to rDNA technology work involving the organization's GE and non-GE hazardous microorganisms.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF IBSCs**

- a) Assess and monitor the items of general consideration, i.e., research facilities, procedures, and experts involved in HMOs/GMOs/LMOs and GE research and ensure that the proposed risk assessment, risk management, and emergency plans are sufficient.
- b) Provide guidance to Principal Investigator on the issues related to biosafety while using HMOs/GMOs/LMOs and GE research, including the safety of the researcher(s) associated with the work.
- c) Inform the Principal Investigator about IBSC review, approval, or rejection of applications.
- d) Copies of site emergency plan to be submitted to RCGM, GEAC, State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC), or District Level Committee (DLC) as the case may be, as per Rules, 1989e). The IBSC shall inspect laboratories using checklists. IBSC shall apprise short coming measures (if necessary) under information to Head of Organization. Inspection reports should be maintained in the IBSC.
- e) Reporting for incidents and release: It is necessary that any incident within an organization, such as non-compliance with the biosafety guidelines, any biosecurity issues, or any significant research-related accidents and illnesses, be reported to IBSC/ RCGM.

**Constitution of IBSC:** It comprises of the following members as mentioned below:

Composition	Criteria
<b>Chairperson</b>	The Head of the organisation or his/her designate (suitable senior officer) shall be the Chairperson (utmost authority) of the IBSC. The Chairperson should preferably have knowledge and experience in scientific research pertaining to GE organisms, latest technological developments in the area & handling of hazardous microorganisms.
<b>Member Secretary</b>	One of the internal members should be designated as Member Secretary.
<b>Biosafety Officer</b>	Each IBSC shall have a member with medical qualifications designated as Biosafety Officer. The Biosafety Officer should be adequately trained with good lab practice in handling RG3 & RG4 pathogenic agents that require special containment conditions (Biosafety Level 3 or 4 facilities) and be able to offer advice on specialized containment requirements.
<b>DBT Nominee</b>	Each IBSC shall have an outside expert nominated by DBT who oversees the activities to ensure that biosafety aspects are being fully adhered by the organisation. While seeking registration of IBSC, the organization shall suggest 3 outside experts working in the areas preferably from nearby institutions. DBT may nominate one among them as DBT nominee or may nominate any other suitable expert as DBT nominee.
<b>Internal and External members</b>	IBSC shall have at least four members with at least one internal and one external member, preferably scientists engaged in rDNA work & non-GE hazardous microorganisms.

The responsibility of each member is well defined in the handbook, and the tenure is also limited to a period of 3 years. There is a provision of registration online to the portal referred to as India Biosafety Knowledge Portal (IBKP) to make regulatory transactions online and paperless. The IBKP may be accessed through the DBT website (<http://dbtindia.gov.in/orhttps://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in>).

#### REFERENCE:

- HANDBOOK for INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEES (IBSCs)-by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India (3rd Revised Edition, Sept. 2020)