

# RISK ASSESSMENT

*The Investigator must make an initial risk assessment based on the Risk Group (RG) of an agent. Classification of agents can be found in Appendix B, Classification of Human Etiologic Agents on the Basis of Hazard, section of the NIH Guidelines. Agents are classified into four Risk Groups (RGs) according to their relative pathogenicity for healthy adult humans by the following criteria:*

<b>Risk Group 1 (RG1)</b>	<b>Risk Group 2 (RG2)</b>	<b>Risk Group 3 (RG3)</b>	<b>Risk Group 4 (RG4)</b>
Agents are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans. (no or low individual and community risk)	Agents are associated with human disease which is rarely serious and for which preventative or therapeutic interventions are <i>often</i> available. (moderate individual risk, low community risk)	Agents are associated with serious or lethal human disease for which preventative or therapeutic interventions <i>may</i> be available. (high individual risk but low community risk)	Agents are likely to cause serious or lethal human disease for which preventative or therapeutic interventions are <i>not usually</i> available. (high individual risk and high community risk)

*The objective of physical containment is to confine organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules and to reduce the potential for exposure of the laboratory worker, persons outside of the laboratory, and the environment to organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules. Physical containment is achieved through the use of laboratory practices, containment equipment, and special laboratory design. Four levels of physical containment are described below. These descriptions are based on existing approaches to containment of pathogenic organisms.*

Biosafety Level 1 (BL1)	Biosafety Level 2 (BL2)	Biosafety Level 3 (BL3)	Biosafety Level 4 (BL4)
Well characterized agents not consistently known to cause disease in healthy adult humans of minimal potential hazard to laboratory personnel and the environment.	Agents of moderate potential hazard to personnel and the environment.	Indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation route.	Dangerous and exotic agents which pose a high individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening disease.