

Issue 10, February 2015

Message from the Director General

It is my pleasure to announce the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Human Pathogens and Toxins (AC-HPT). The establishment of this committee was the result of an amendment made by Parliament during the passing of the *Human Pathogens and Toxins Act* (HPTA) to address your concerns with the HPTA Schedules. Since then we have further expanded the mandate of this committee to include the provision of scientific advice focused on the characteristics and risks of human pathogens and toxins, as well as providing advice and recommendations that will assist the Agency in addressing domestic and international biosafety and biosecurity risks.

The AC-HPT will play an important role in reviewing and influencing the HPTA schedules to ensure they are consistent and reflective of the reality in which you operate.

The committee, chaired by Dr. Jack Kitts, consists of experts in various scientific disciplines that have expertise related to the mandate of the AC-HPT. In addition, selected members come from different sectoral backgrounds to ensure they are representative of the biosafety community which they serve.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who applied, for their interest in the AC-HPT and their willingness to contribute.

We are pleased to have the expertise of the committee members and we look forward to beginning the important work of the AC-HPT.

Sincerely,

Sandra Fry
Director General
Centre for Biosecurity
Health Security Infrastructure Branch
Public Health Agency of Canada
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The Advisory Committee on Human Pathogens and Toxins

As set out in the HPTA, the Agency has established an [Advisory Committee on Human Pathogens and Toxins](#) (AC-HPT) to provide scientific expertise and advice on pathogens and toxins. The committee, consisting of 11 members including the Chair, met for the first time February 19-20, 2015 in Ottawa. The membership list and a summary of their summary of expertise, experience and affiliations and interest can be found on our website.

The Minister must consult the AC-HPT before making additions to or deletions from Schedules 1 to 5 of the HPTA. Schedule 1 provides a list of toxins covered under the HPTA, Schedules 2 to 4 provide examples of human pathogens that fall into Risk Groups 2 to 4 (generally used to assign biocontainment levels), and Schedule 5 provides a list of prohibited human pathogens and toxins (currently limited to smallpox).

The primary role of the AC-HPT is to determine the approach to be used to support the review of the HPTA schedules, such as:

- Risk Group changes
- Updating taxonomy
- Addition or removal of human pathogens on the HPTA Schedules

In addition to the review of the Schedules, the AC-HPT will play a critical role in establishing the path forward to address pathogen-related challenges. Upon request, it will provide scientific advice focused on the characteristics and risks of human pathogens and toxins and provide advice and recommendations that will assist in addressing domestic and international biosafety and biosecurity risks, this could include:

- priorities for the reassessment and possible reassignment of risk group classifications;
- the risks of human pathogens, including emerging pathogens, and the assignment of appropriate biosafety and biocontainment requirements; and
- other science advice, as requested.

Advice and recommendations provided to the Agency are based on committee discussions and must have the endorsement of the majority of committee members. As required by the HPTA, the advice the AC-HPT provides pertaining to additions and deletions to Schedules 1 to 5 of the Act will be made public and will be posted on the Agency's website once approved.

For any further questions or inquiries please [contact the Advisory Committee on Human Pathogens and Toxins Secretariat](#).



Advisory Committee on Human Pathogens and Toxins Members, February 2015, from left to right: Fiona Smail, Rodney Russell, Georgia Perona-Wright, Maurice Boissinot, Cécile Tremblay, Jack Kitts, Margo Moore, James Scott, David Evans, Paul Levett and Kevin Cassidy.

CBSG Biosafety App News and Tips

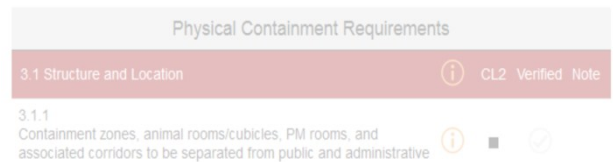


The free [CBSG App](#) for Android and Apple users lets you see the *Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines* (CBSG), 1st Edition, 2013 in a different way! You can find the containment requirements specific to your facility! It can also be used as a part of a self-verification system for institutions as it can be sent by email from the lab to the Biological Safety Officer (BSO).

Tailored Checklists

Did you know? The CBSG Biosafety App allows you to sort all of the requirements to generate a **checklist tailored to your specific location**. After creating a location identifier for your containment zone, you will be asked:

- a. To select the containment level of the specified location;
- b. To select the type of work area (laboratory work area, large scale production area, small animal containment zone, or large animal containment zone); and
- c. Do you work with prions?

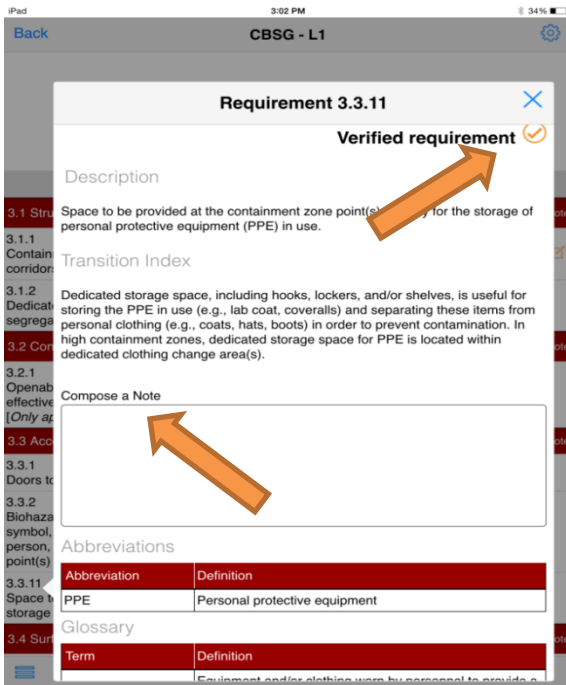
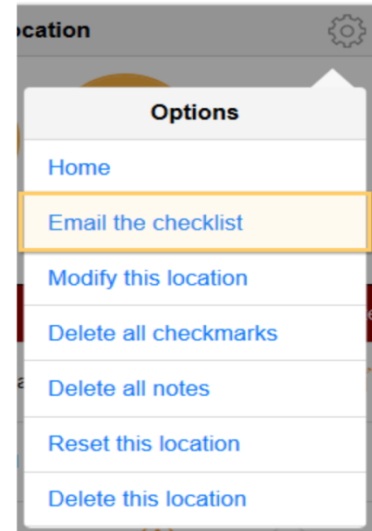


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Your answers to these questions will determine what requirements appear in your checklist. For each criterion, select your response from the options that appear. The checklist that appears will list the requirements for the criteria selected. You can enter multiple locations to generate a separate checklist for each.

Email Options

Did you know? By selecting the “Options” button in the top right, you can discover more ways to work with your location, checklist, checkmarks and notes. For example, you can email your location-specific checklist and any recorded notes to yourself or a colleague (e.g., your Biological Safety Officer), select “Email the checklist” from the Options menu.

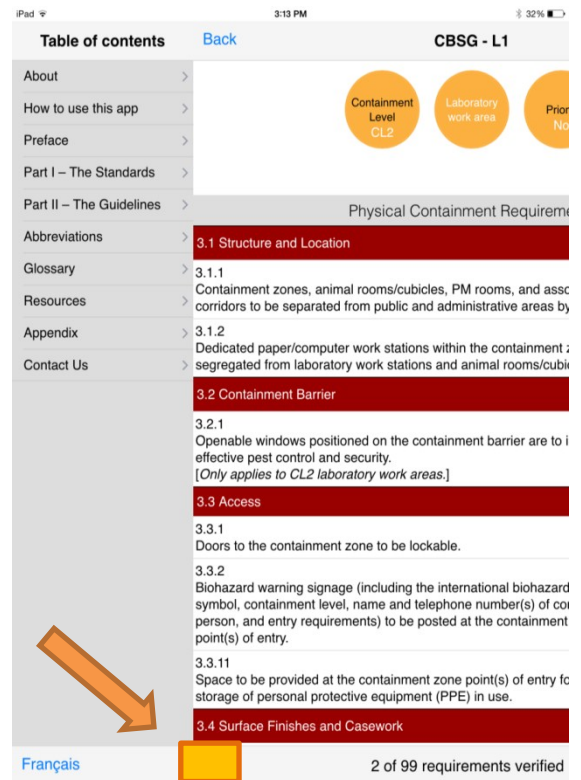


Record Verified Requirements

Did you know? By selecting the a row in the checklist, you will expand details about the requirement, including the Transition Index entry, direct links to the associated sections of Part II (The Guidelines), as well as any abbreviations, acronyms, or glossary terms related to the requirement. You can record that the requirement has been verified by selecting “Verified Requirement” in the top right corner of the pop-up box. Information that you type in the “Compose a Note” box will be saved. When you return to the checklist, the “Verified” and “Note” indicators will appear (in orange), allowing you to quickly find where you have added notes.

Table of Contents

Did you know? By selecting the “Table of Contents” button at the bottom left, you can discover more of the CBSG. You can link to the Preface, Chapters 1 and 2 of Part I – The Standards, the full text of Part II – The Guidelines, The full list of abbreviations, the full CBSG glossary, the complete Resources list (including web links to references and resources, where available), and the full CBSG Appendix, including all figures and diagrams. The app can also be viewed in French by selecting the “Français” toggle button, which appears under the “Table of Contents”.



Free download and online

Did you know? The CBSG Biosafety app is currently available as a **free download for Android and Apple users**. Links are available through the [CBSG website](#). The Agency is also pleased to announce that a **web-based version of the app**, viewable through any web browser, is now available on the [Biosafety E-Learning and Training Resources Portal](#). Access to the **CBSG Biosafety Web App is available free of charge to anyone upon creation of an account**. Please visit the Agency’s E-learning Portal to view the app as well as other biosafety courses and videos developed by the Agency.

Quick Hits!

NEW “look” to our Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity web page

You provided feedback, and we listened!

As part of our ongoing engagement to superior client service and open communications with our stakeholders and partners – we are pleased to announce that our [website](#) has been updated with a “new look”. The resulting website changes follow Government of Canada modern web accessibility standards and feature a more user-friendly navigational system.

We are continually updating our web content and invite you to visit us online often.

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Staying Connected

Do you have items of interest that would benefit the biosafety and biosecurity community, such as a training tool or Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) you'd like to share? It would be our pleasure to include a few short stories in each issue of our newsletter. To submit information, please do so by e-mail at Hpta.lapht.consultations@phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Do you have any comments or suggestions? Please contact us at:
Hpta.lapht.consultations@phac-aspc.gc.ca

If you have received this email in error or no longer wish to receive email communication regarding the HPTA, please reply to this email with "unsubscribe" in the subject field.