

# HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR GRANTEES AND CONTRACTORS

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This notice is a republication, with minor modifications, of the notice Health and Safety Guidelines for Grantees and Contractors (NIH Guide, Vol. 23, No. 23, June 17, 1994). It is being published again to emphasize the continuing importance of adherence to the Health and Safety Guidelines and provide additional sources of guidance to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) contractors and grantees.

Organizations receiving grant or contract awards from the Federal Government are responsible for protecting their employees from hazardous conditions. The Government is not legally liable for accidents, illnesses, or claims arising out of research, but the NIH

nonetheless encourages awardees to minimize the hazards that may threaten the safety and health of laboratory and clinical research personnel. Accordingly, the guidelines that follow are designed to (1) identify potential hazards, (2) advise awardee organizations and investigators of standards that should be considered to address particular health and/or safety concerns, and (3) emphasize that concerns about potentially hazardous conditions could result in grant or contract funding delays until those concerns have been resolved to the satisfaction of the awarding component.

1. Source of potential danger to research personnel include the following classes of hazard:
  - a. Biohazards (e.g., Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), other infectious agents, oncogenic viruses)
  - b. Chemical hazards (e.g., carcinogens, chemotherapeutic agents, other toxic chemicals, flammable or explosive materials)
  - c. Radioactive materials
2. Several guidelines and standards are available that can assist grantees and contractors in providing a safe work environment for research personnel. Therefore, depending upon the particular safety hazard at issue, grantees and contractors are expected to consult appropriate guidelines. These include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Biosafety in Microbiological and Biological Laboratories, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. HHS Publication No. (CDC)93-8395. This publication may be obtained from:

Division of Safety, Office of Research Services  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 1C02  
31 Center Drive MSC 2260

Bethesda MD 20892-2260

- b. Prudent Practices for Handling Hazardous Chemicals in the Laboratory. Price \$19.95.
- c. Prudent Practices for the Disposal of Chemicals from the Laboratory. Price \$19.95.
- d. Biosafety in the Laboratory: Prudent Practices for Handling and Disposal of Infectious Materials. Price \$19.95.

These may be obtained from:

National Academy Press  
2102 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20418

- e. Additional guidance is available from the Regional Offices of the Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
  - f. State and local environmental, health, and/or occupational safety agencies can provide guidance specific to local situations.
3. Grant applications and contract proposals posing special hazards typically are identified during the initial review process, but such concerns can formally be expressed by agency staff or consultants at any time prior to award. Regardless of the timing of the described concern, grant or contract funding could be delayed until the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the awarding component.

Special hazards that are identified after an award is made may lead to suspension of work under the grant or contract pending corrective action by the awardee. 45 CFR 74, Subpart M, addresses grant suspension and 48 CFR 12.5 addresses contract "stop work" orders.)

Grantee and contractor organizations are not required to submit documented assurance of their specific attention to the guidelines and standards identified in this notice. However, grantees and contractors should be able to provide evidence that pertinent health and safety standards have been considered and put into practice as appropriate. Such evidence may be requested by appropriate NIH staff, for example, during a site visit.