



No. PID-15011(11)/5/2020-PPB-DBT

Dated 16.09.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Follow-up on the Action points for "National Guidelines for the Establishment and Certification of Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) Containment Facility, 2024"

This is with reference to Office Memorandum of even number dated 28.10.2024 regarding notification of the "National Guidelines for the Establishment and Certification of Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) Containment Facility, 2024", which makes BSL-3 laboratory certification mandatory pan-India for all public and private organizations engaged in handling Genetically Engineered (GE) organisms and hazardous microorganisms with effect from 27.09.2024.

It is hereby informed that the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), the competent authority notified under the Rules, 1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in its 343rd meeting held on 02.09.2026, reviewed the status of implementation of the aforementioned Guidelines and noted that several organizations are yet to comply with the certification mechanism prescribed in the aforementioned guidelines. In this context, the RCGM reiterated the importance of obtaining valid certification and ensuring annual validation of essential technical parameters for high-containment facilities, with a view to further strengthening biosafety standards and harmonized compliance.

Accordingly, the RCGM recommended that the concerned Line Ministries / Organizations may kindly expedite and submit BSL-3 certification applications / information regarding certification by 31.10.2026. It has been further indicated that, beyond the said date, consideration of applications (B1/B3/B5/B7 and C1) and IBSC compliance documents [Minutes of the IBSC Meeting (MoM), Annual Compliance Report (ACR) of the IBSC, and Medical Surveillance Report (MSR)] pertaining to organizations operating non-certified BSL-3 containment facilities, involving handling of Risk Group-3 microorganisms and conduct of Category III and above Genetic Engineering experiments, may be constrained.

(Dr. Amit P. Parikh)

Member Secretary, RCGM &
Scientist 'G', DBT

To:

1. All IBSCs for information and compliance
2. All DBT Nominees for ensuring compliance