

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBSC)

In India, the manufacture, import, research and release of Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs), as well as products made by the use of such organisms are governed by The Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-Organisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, (commonly referred to as “Rules 1989) notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), on December 5, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

The Rules 1989 are broad in scope and covers the area of research as well as large-scale handling of hazardous microorganisms, GE organisms or cells and products thereof. In order to implement the Rules in the entire country, six competent authorities and roles have been notified under the Rules 1989.

Competent Authorities under Rules 1989

| Competent Authorities | Role |
|---|-------------------------|
| Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RDAC) | Advisory |
| Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) | Regulatory/ Approval |
| Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) | |
| Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) | |
| State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC) | Monitoring |
| District Level Committee (DLC) | |

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC):

This Committee shall be constituted by all institutions handling hazardous microorganisms and/or GE organisms. The Committee will be the nodal point for implementation of the biosafety guidelines and for the interactions within the institution. The Committee shall comprise of the Head of the Institution, Scientists engaged in the recombinant DNA work, a medical doctor and a nominee of the Department of Biotechnology. Institutions handling risk-inherent microorganisms or GE organisms shall prepare, with the assistance of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), on-site emergency plan and

update 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.

The constitution, composition, role and functions, information for compliance requirements, processes to be followed while dealing with hazardous microorganisms, GE organisms or cells and product thereof in line with Rules 1989 is described in “[Guidelines and Handbook for Institutional Biosafety Committee](#)”. Adherence to the guideline shall be binding for all IBSCs.

Composition of the IBSC at ICAR-CMFRI

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| Dr.P.Vijayagopal Head, Marine Biotechnology Division, CMFRI | Chairperson |
| Dr.Krupesha Sharma S.R., Principal Scientist, Marine Biotechnology Division, CMFRI | Member Secretary |
| Dr.G.K.Sivaraman, Principal Scientist, CIFT | DBT Nominee |
| Dr.Raja Swaminathan, Principal Scientist, NBFGR, Kochi | External Expert |
| Dr. Nijo Joseph, Kothamangalam, Kerala | Biosafety Officer/ Medical Expert |
| Dr.Jena, N.S, Scientist, Marine Biotechnology Division, CMFRI | Internal Expert |
| Dr.Sumithra T.G., Scientist, Marine Biotechnology Division, CMFRI | Internal Expert |
| Dr.Sandhya Sukumaran, Senior Scientist, Marine Biotechnology Division, CMFRI | Internal Expert |
| Dr.Pradeep M.A., Scientist, Marine Biotechnology Division, CMFRI | Internal Expert |