

SAFETY ALERT



Transporting Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Biosecurity Materials

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University workers who:

- perform Dealings with Genetically Modified Organisms, and
- import Biosecurity Materials.

Information

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) need to be transported following the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) Guidelines for the Transport, Storage and Disposal of GMOs.

<https://www.ogtr.gov.au/resources/publications/guidelines-transport-storage-and-disposal-gmos>

Biosecurity Materials need to be transported following the Conditions on the Import Permit.

This applies both when:

- you are sending samples to someone, and
- someone is sending samples to you.

Incident Details

Recently a package containing Exempt Dealing GMOs was imported by being sent to one of our researchers by an overseas collaborator. The package was damaged in transit and resulted in some of the tubes of imported GMOs being lost. This was a non-compliance with the requirements of both the Gene Technology and Biosecurity Acts, which needed to be reported to the Regulators.

Recommendations

Package your samples appropriately for transport and advise your collaborators to do the same.

More information can be found on Curtin's 'Transporting Biological Materials' webpage

<http://healthandsafety.curtin.edu.au/hazardous-materials/transporting.cfm>

Who do you call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact your Biosafety Partner on 9266 1383 or

HazardousMaterials@curtin.edu.au or Health and Safety on 9266 4900 or healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au

Date of Issue

26/05/2022