

April 1, 2008

**Items concerning Experiments involving Microorganisms and Recombinant
DNA on board Research Vessels**
(For *Chikyu*)

Safety and Environment Management Office
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)

In accordance with various circumstances, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (hereinafter “JAMSTEC”) places the following restrictions on experiments using microorganisms, etc., (“microorganism experiments”) and experiments involving DNA recombination (“recombinant DNA experiments”) that take place aboard *Chikyu* as part of a JAMSTEC program that invites public participation in research voyages. If you intend to apply for participation in a research voyage, please do so after reading and understanding these restrictions.

Moreover, when conducting an experiment of any kind, please complete all procedures that correspond to that experiment.

If you have any questions regarding determination of biosafety level (hereinafter “BSL”), containment measures, or other matters concerning planned experiments, please contact JAMSTEC.

Experiments and potential research vessels

Microorganism experiments

- Experiments involving BSL1 microorganisms, etc.¹
Can be conducted aboard *Chikyu*.
 - Please read “Notes on Experiments involving BSL1 Microorganisms, etc. (For *Chikyu*)” and follow the required procedures.
- Experiments involving BSL2 microorganisms, etc. (excluding microorganisms, etc., that are classified as specific pathogens, etc.)²
Absolutely prohibited aboard *Chikyu*.
- Experiments using microorganisms, etc., that are classified as specific pathogens,

etc.², among BSL2 microorganisms, or microorganism experiments of BSL3 or above
Absolutely prohibited aboard ANY JAMSTEC vessel..

Note 1: BSL1 microorganisms, etc.: includes unidentified microorganisms, etc., that grow in the natural environment.

Note 2: Specific pathogens, etc.: refers to microorganisms, etc., corresponding to type 1 pathogens, type 2 pathogens, type 3 pathogens, and type 4 pathogens stipulated in the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients Suffering Infectious Diseases (Law No 114 of 1998).

Recombinant DNA experiments

- Recombinant DNA experiments whose appropriate containment measure classification is P1 and which use an approved host-vector system

Can be conducted aboard Chikyu.

→ Please read “Notes on Experiments involving Recombinant DNA” and follow the required procedures.

- Recombinant DNA experiments whose appropriate containment measure classification is P1 but which do not use an approved host-vector system, or recombinant DNA experiments whose appropriate containment measure classification is P2

Absolutely prohibited aboard Chikyu..

- Recombinant DNA experiments whose appropriate containment measure classification is other than P1 or P2

Absolutely prohibited aboard ANY JAMSTEC vessel.

Microorganisms

Refers to bacteria, archaea, fungi, and protists, as well as substances that are produced by them

BSL

Refers to a level that is set in accordance with the risk a particular microorganism poses. Ordinarily, BSL is comprised of four levels (1 to 4); a higher number indicates higher risk. JAMSTEC applies the Classification Table of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. (See the “BSL Classification Table”)

Definitions pertaining to “recombinant DNA experiment”

Definitions pertaining to “recombinant DNA experiment” are based on Article 2 of

the Law Concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity through Regulations on the Use of Living Modified Organisms (Law No. 97 of 2003).

Approved host-vector system

Refers to a combination of a host and a vector that are established in Article 2 paragraph 13 of “The Ministerial Ordinance providing Containment Measures to be Taken in Type 2 Use of Living Modified Organisms for Research and Development” (Ministerial Ordinance No. 1 of 2004 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Ministry of the Environment; hereinafter the “Type 2 R&D Ordinance”).

Containment measure classification

Refers to the classification of containment measures that is established in Article 5 of the Type 2 R&D Ordinance.

Send forms and direct inquiries to:

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