

## Erratum

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This Erratum is regarding the submission entitled “Biological Agents and Toxins Act: Development and Enforcement of Biosafety and Biosecurity in Singapore” by Tin Tun, Kristen E. Sadler, and James P. Tam that appears on pages 39-43 of *Applied Biosafety* (Volume 12, Number 1, 2007).

The following are changes to page 40 under the heading “Schedules versus Risk Groups”:

- First paragraph, line 6: **Currently reads:** Dengue Virus Type 1-4 was classified as Risk Group 2 in Singapore (previously), Canada and Australia but... **Should read:** Dengue virus Type 1-4 was classified as Schedule 4 biological agent in Singapore, Canada, and Australia, but...

The following are changes to page 40, Table 1:

- Heading row, second column: **Currently reads:** Risk Group, **Should read:** Biological Agent
- First row, second column: **Currently reads:** 3, **Should read:** nothing
- First row, fourth column: **Currently reads:** 56, **Should read:** 55
- First row, fifth column: **Currently reads:** BSL3 Certified (Uncertified...), **Should read:** Certified facility (uncertified...)
- Second row, second column: **Currently reads:** 3, **Should read:** nothing
- Second row, fifth column: **Currently reads:** BSL3 Certified and Protected Place (Uncertified facility and protected place can appeal), **Should read:** Certified facility and Protected Place (uncertified facility but protected place can appeal)
- Third row, fifth column: **Currently reads:** BSL3 Certified and Protected Place with Special Approval granted by the Director (Medical Services), **Should read:** Certified facility and Protected Place
- Fourth row, second column: **Currently reads:** 2, **Should read:** nothing
- Fourth row, fifth column: **Currently reads:** Specified in the Approval by the Director (Medical Services), **Should read:** nothing
- Fifth row, second column: **Currently reads:** 2, **Should read:** nothing
- Fifth row, fifth column: **Currently reads:** Conditions of a Permit granted by the Director (Medical Services), **Should read:** nothing
- Sixth row, fourth column: **Currently reads:** 5, **Should read:** 7
- Sixth row, fifth column: **Currently reads:** Protected Place and Conditions of an Approval granted by the Director (Medical Services), **Should read:** Protected Place
- **Note 1:** Facility certification by an approved certifier (by the Ministry of Health, Singapore) is a prerequisite for granting approval (for possession) or permit (import, transshipment, etc.) for schedule 1 and 2 organisms. The Ministry of Health does not of itself certify facilities, it grants approval and permits.
- **Note 2:** BATA classifies biological agents and toxins in schedules and not by risk groups.

The following are changes to page 41 under the heading “Biosafety Branch”:

- First paragraph, last sentence: **Currently reads:** ...and, prevents bioterrorism by controlling the use of high risk biological agents. **Should read:** ...and, prevents non-legitimate use by controlling the possession and use of high risk biological agents and toxins.
- Second paragraph, line 8: **Currently reads:** A webpage has been created and all relevant information is available online for the Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facilities in Singapore (MOH Biosafety, 2006). **Should read:** A webpage has been created and all relevant information related to the BATA is available online.
- Second paragraph, line 13: **Currently reads:** ...applications for permits and approvals, notification of transfers, receipt, inactivation and disposal, reporting of incident and inventory for biological agents, etc. **Should read:** ...applications for approvals, notification of transfers, receipt, inactivation and disposal, reporting of incident and inventory for biological agents, etc. (Note: Application of permits is through the Tradenet, Singapore Customs, Ministry of Finance and not the biosafety IT system.)

The following are changes to page 41 under the heading “Possession Control”:

- First paragraph, lines 6-7: **Currently reads:** ...to the facility being a certified BSL-3 facility. **Should read:** ...to the

facility being a certified facility.

- First paragraph, lines 7-9: **Currently reads:** The approvals to possess BA in schedule 1 (part II) and schedule 2 are granted to a certified BSL-3 facility which... **Should read:** The approval to possess BA in schedule 1 (part II) and schedule 2 are granted to a certified facility which...

The following are changes to page 41 under the heading "Import Control":

- First paragraph, lines 4-8: **Currently reads:** The importer of the BA into Singapore must have approval to possess the BA. The importer or the end-user is responsible for ensuring that a valid permit is obtained before bringing the BA into Singapore. **Should read:** The importer bringing in Schedule 1 and 2 BAs and Schedule 5 toxins into Singapore must have approval to possess the BAs and toxins. The importer or the end-user is responsible for ensuring that a valid permit is obtained before bringing the above scheduled agents into Singapore.
- Note: The whole second paragraph needs to be revised in which a requirement of transshipment permit is not limited to biological agents (BAs) only, but applies to both biological agents (BAs) and Toxins. For BAs, it is limited to Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 agents.

The following are changes to page 42 under the heading "Facility Requirements":

- First paragraph, line 1: **Currently reads:** BSL-3 facility must be... **Should read:** The facility must be...
- Second paragraph, first sentence: **Currently reads:** It is a requirement for a BSL-3 facility to establish an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) which includes at least biosafety coordinator, microbiologist, facility maintenance personnel and representative from senior management. **Should read:** It is a requirement for a facility that has been granted approval to possess any First, Second, and Fifth Schedule agents, or approval to produce First or Third Schedule biological agents in amounts over 10 litres (considered large-scale) to establish an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which includes...

The following are changes to page 42, Table 2:

- Seventh row, second column: **Currently reads:** Yes, **Should read:** No
- Eighth row, second column: **Currently reads:** Yes, **Should read:** No
- Ninth row, first column: **Currently reads:** Certified BSL3 Facility, **Should read:** Certified Facility

The following are changes to page 43 under the heading "Facility Requirements":

- First full paragraph, lines 4-9: **Currently reads:** Training for BSL-3 staff is mandated under the BATA. Such training for personnel working in a BSL-3 facility can be conducted in-house or by experienced external trainers. The BATA has given a six-month transitional period from the date of commencement of the BATA to BSL-3 facilities in Singapore for... **Should read:** Training for staff handling Schedule 1 and 2 biological agents is mandated under the BATA. Such training can be conducted in-house or by experienced external trainers. The BATA has been given a six-month transitional period from the date of commencement of the BATA to facilities handling the above scheduled agents in Singapore for...