Laboratory Accreditation Program
American Biological Safety Association

The American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) is proud to announce the development of a voluntary ABSA Laboratory Accreditation Program for high containment (BSL-3 and ABSL-3) laboratories that are not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Select Agent and Toxins Regulations. ABSA accreditation will provide those entities with recognition of excellence and compliance with high standards, while helping facilities that need guidance in generating processes and policies to create a safer environment for their organization, employees, research animals, and the community.

ABSA has developed accreditation criteria based on currently recognized guidelines and practices. The ABSA Laboratory Accreditation Program uses the CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation, European Committee for Standardization) Workshop Agreement 15793, Laboratory Biorisk Management to assess the overall management of biological safety by the institution. The Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, 5th edition, CDC/NIH (BMBL) and the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines) are used to assess the technical aspects of the institution’s biosafety program and practices.

The benefits of accreditation include recognition within the biosafety community that an institution conducts work with biohazardous agents in a safe and secure manner, and assurance to the public that the institution is conducting safe science, thus protecting its employees, research animals, the public, and the environment.

An institution seeking accreditation may apply to the ABSA Laboratory Accreditation Program at accreditlab@absa.org. After you apply, the ABSA Laboratory Accreditation Program will initiate the steps required for the comprehensive on-site assessment. The entire process is confidential.

Additional information on the ABSA Accreditation Program can be found at http://www.absaaccreditation.org.