SOP for cultivation of biohazardous organisms from samples in labs already approved as BSL-2

Isolation of RG2 organisms

1. In the event that an RG-2 organism, not approved for use in your laboratory, is obtained from environmental samples and will **NOT** be used for further analysis:
    a. Dispose of the solid samples (e.g. plates) into an orange autoclave bag with a biohazard symbol, and autoclave the waste.
    b. Dispose of the autoclaved waste as Regulated Medical Waste (RMW). For supplies and to request RMW pickup, follow instructions on the EHS website (http://www.ehss.vt.edu/programs/waste_regulated_medical.php).

2. In the event that an RG-2 organism, not approved for use in your laboratory, is obtained from environmental samples and **WILL** be cultured for further analysis:
    a. Contact the IBC (ibc@vt.edu). You will need to amend your IBC protocol to include the list of the RG2 organisms that will be cultured and a description of the experiments/analysis that will be performed with the organism(s).
        i. The samples can be stored in the lab during processing of the IBC protocol.
    b. After receiving IBC approval, handle the cultures using BSL-2 containment practices and discard all waste as RMW.

Isolation of RG3 organisms

1. In the event that an RG-3 organism is unintentionally isolated from samples and will **NOT** be used for further analysis:

    a. Immediately seal the samples in orange autoclave bag(s) and place the sealed bag(s) in a secure location in the BSL-3 lab.
    b. Immediately contact the Responsible Official and University Biosafety Officer, Charlotte Waggoner (ren@vt.edu), the Alternate Responsible Official and Associate Biosafety Officer Anna Kroner (akroner@vt.edu), for details on how the organism should be destroyed and disposed.
    c. Dispose of the samples following specific instructions from the BSO.

2. In the event that an RG-3 organism is obtained from environmental samples and you want to keep the isolate for further analysis:

a. Immediately contact the Responsible Official and University Biosafety Officer, Charlotte Waggoner (ren@vt.edu), the Alternate Responsible Official and Associate Biosafety Officer Anna Kroner (akroner@vt.edu) to determine if the sample can be stored in an approved BSL-3 space.
    i. The samples **cannot** be stored in your BSL-2 lab.
b. You will need to receive approval to obtain space in a BSL-3 lab from your Department.
c. You will need to submit an IBC protocol to work with the RG3 organism(s).

Isolation of Select Agents

1. In the event that an organism designated as a Select Agent is unintentionally isolated from samples:

    a. Immediately seal the samples in orange autoclave bags and place the sealed bag in a secure location in the lab.
    b. Immediately contact the Responsible Official and University Biosafety Officer, Charlotte Waggoner (ren@vt.edu), the Alternate Responsible Official and Associate Biosafety Officer Anna Kroner (akroner@vt.edu), for details on how the organism should be destroyed and disposed.
    c. Dispose of the samples following specific instructions from the Responsible Official.
    d. A list of agents designated as Select Agents can be found on the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) website (https://www.selectagents.gov/).

Isolation of RG4 organisms

2. In the event that an RG-4 organism is unintentionally isolated from samples:
    a. Immediately seal the samples in orange autoclave bag(s) and place the sealed bag(s) in a secure location in the **BSL-3** lab.
    b. Immediately contact the Responsible Official and University Biosafety Officer, Charlotte Waggoner (ren@vt.edu), the Alternate Responsible Official and Associate Biosafety Officer Anna Kroner (akroner@vt.edu), for details on how the organism should be destroyed and disposed.
    c. Dispose of the samples following specific instructions from the BSO.