 NIH Guidelines Amended to Provide Risk Group Designations for Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa -

The NIH has published a notice of amendments to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines) in the November 6, 2013, Federal Register. Appendix B of the NIH Guidelines has been amended to specify the Risk Group (RG) classification for MERS-CoV and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Specifically, MERS-CoV has been designated as a RG3 agent, while Pseudomonas aeruginosa has been designated as a RG2 agent.

Risk Group designations are based on an assessment of an organism’s ability to cause disease in humans and on the available treatments for such disease. The identification of an organism’s Risk Group is an early and important step in conducting a risk assessment of research with recombinant DNA.

These amendments are “minor actions” under Section IV-C-1-(b)-2 of the NIH Guidelines and, therefore, will be effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register. The online version of the NIH Guidelines will be amended shortly to include these changes.

OBA welcomes comments on this notice through December 6, 2013, to inform any future revisions to Appendix B. To convey comments or questions, or to seek additional information about these revisions, please contact OBA at 301-496-9838 or oba@od.nih.gov.