

Use of Biohazardous and Infectious Materials in Research and Teaching

Senate Policy Number: 58

Related Documents: N/A

Responsible Office: Vice President, Research and Innovation

Revision Approval Date: May 1, 2018

1. Purpose

Biohazardous or Infectious materials, present a potential risk to the well-being of humans or other animals, either directly through infection or indirectly through disruption of the environment. The use of Biohazardous or Infectious materials can be very valuable to determine new knowledge and understanding.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the use of Biohazardous or Infectious materials in the course of research and teaching undertaken by the Ryerson community is undertaken in a responsible manner that ensures the safety of students, faculty, staff, the community and the environment from the potential hazards associated with the use of such material and conforms with the terms of the University's license obligations.

2. Application and Scope

This policy will apply to the use of potentially oncogenic, infectious, or toxic Biohazardous and Infectious materials used in the course of Ryerson research and teaching activities that involve the use of Ryerson facilities.

3. Definitions

Biohazardous material means infectious agents that are capable of causing disease Biohazards, as defined by Health Canada's Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines.

Infectious material means any isolate of a pathogen or any biological material that contains human or animal pathogens and, therefore, poses a risk to human or animal health as defined by the Government of Canada's Canadian Biosafety Standards.

4. Policy

No research or teaching using Biohazardous or Infectious materials shall be conducted by any member of the University unless the activity has been approved through the issuance of a Biosafety Permit from the University's Biosafety Officer.

The University's Biosafety Officer has the authority to immediately order the stoppage of any use of Biohazardous or Infectious Materials which deviates from the approved Biosafety Permit or is deemed to be in non-compliance with relevant legislation, regulations or university policies and procedures.