



FINAL REPORT

INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP

Laboratory Biorisk Management Awareness
Infectious substances Shipping Training

Rio de Janeiro | Brazil | 03-06 May 2011

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Infectious Substances Shipping Training

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Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

Veterinária Public Health

Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

FINAL REPORT

INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP Laboratory Biorisk Management Awareness and Infectious Substances Shipping Training

The European Union Joint Action in support of the World Health Organization in the area of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity offered an opportunity to organize a workshop on Biorisk Management (BRM) Awareness Raising and Infectious Substances Shipping Training. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PANAFTOSA/PAHO/WHO) with the support of FIOCRUZ – Ministry of Health of Brazil. It took place at the Convention Center of the Hotel Pestana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 3-6 May 2011.

Background

In 2009, WHO in collaboration with PANAFTOSA/PAHO/WHO held an interregional workshop for Portuguese speaking countries, where awareness on biosafety and laboratory biosecurity in laboratories of public and animal health was raised. A total of 28 participants representing 11 countries attended the event. The objective was to promote the integration of professionals from human and veterinary public health laboratories and emphasize the importance of implementing and practice biosafety measures in laboratories as a tool to reduce the occurrence of biological accidents. During the workshop, two days were reserved for training on shipping of infectious substances.

In 2011, the European Union Joint Action in support of the World Health Organization in the area of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity offered an opportunity to organize a second workshop to raise awareness on laboratory biorisk management for public health and animal health stakeholders discussing the various elements of a full BRM programme, and to train shippers of infectious substances on applicable international regulations.

Participants

A total of 36 participants representing 19 countries as well as WHO, OIE, FIOCRUZ and PANAFTOSA/PAHO attended the workshop (Annex 1).

Agenda

The workshop was held following the agenda in Annex 2. The opening remarks were pronounced by the members of the Board (listed in alphabetical order according to their Institutions):

Board:

- CGAL – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brazil
Jorge Caetano Junior
- European Union
Angel Landabaso
- FIOCRUZ – Ministry of Health, Brazil
Wim Degrave
- Netherlands Embassy
Paul Comenencia
- PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO
Ottorino Cosivi
- World Health Organization – WHO
Kazunobu Kojima
- World Organization for Animal Health – OIE
Martin Minassian

Dr. Kojima, Chairman, welcomed the participants, introduced the members of the Board to the audience and explained the background of the event and the content of the Workshop to be held. He emphasize that the event is held according to the International Health Regulation (IHR), which is the milestone for promotion of biosecurity and biosafety. Further, he gave the word to each of the members of the Board who briefly mentioned the importance and impact of the subjects to be addressed, considering the context of the pluri-regional and multipolar world and explained the support that each Institution offers in accordance with the IHR and, particularly, in matters related to biorisk management.

The awareness on Biorisk Management was provided by Paul Huntly, Head of the Biorisk Group of DNV. Training on the shipping of Infectious Substances was provided by Nicoletta Previsani, from WHO, Team Leader, Laboratory Alliances and Biosafety - International Health Regulation Department.

Workshop

Part 1 – Laboratory Biorisk Management Awareness Training

Lecturer Dr. Paul J. Huntly

A power point presentation was used to introduce the audience to the *CEN/CWA 15793:2008 Laboratory Biorisk Management standard* and practical exercises were done in groups. The participants were then exposed to the 16 different elements of their practical applicability in laboratories. Case studies were carried out allowing to exchange experiences, provide clarification of concepts and the application of the knowledge acquired during the exercises.

The participants received as support a copy of the documents *CEN/CWA 15793:2008*, *WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual, Third edition, 2004*, and *WHO Biorisk management-Laboratory Biosecurity guidance, 2006*.



Part 2 –Infectious Substances Shipping Training

Lecturer Dr. Nicoletta Previsani

The training was performed through theoretical presentations and practical exercises. Training content was divided into modules and after the lecture of each module partial tests were carried out allowing assessment of participants' performance. A final individual assessment was made after the reviewing of all modules. Participants who scored at least 80% in the final test received a certificate that allows them to prepare and document shipments of infectious substances for a period of two years, after which a refresher course will be required to maintain their credentials.

The participants received as support a copy of the WHO publication *Guidance on regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances, 2011-2012*, and all the training slides.



Photos link: <https://picasaweb.google.com/117262817747436439110/WorshopInterRegional#>

Conclusion

The workshop provided the participants with knowledge of the content in the CEN/CWA 15793:2008 standard and the importance of performing careful analysis of the different laboratory situations and procedures, in order to identify the level of risk and apply appropriate risk management measures, respecting national and local biosafety and laboratory biosecurity policies. Despite the existing heterogeneity between the participating countries regarding biorisk management regulations in force, WHO recommends all participating countries to consider addressing and implement the various elements of the CEN/CWA 15793:2008 standard. The need to define a strategy to disseminate the content of the CEN/CWA 15793:2008 in the countries, approaching both human and veterinary health laboratories was identified.

The following mid term needs were identified:

1. Develop a methodology to monitor the impact of the workshop in participating countries
2. Identify financial resources and political support to define locally implementable strategies to ensure the sustainable implementation of laboratory biorisk management approaches
3. Continue to promote activities aiming at strengthening laboratory biorisk management awareness of public and veterinary health laboratories.



WHO-EU Joint Action on Biorisk Management

Workshop I: Laboratory Biorisk Management Awareness Training (CEN/CWA 15793:2008)

Workshop II: Infectious Substances Shipping Training

| | Day 0 Monday | Day 1 Tuesday | Day 2 Wednesday | Day 3 Thursday | Day 4 Friday |
|-------|--------------|--|--|---|---|
| 9:00 | | Registration Opening remarks | Review of previous day ☼ Personnel and competency ☼ Good microbiological technique ☼ Clothing and personal protective equipment ☼ Human factors ☼ Healthcare | INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES SHIPPING TRAINING Introduction Ground Rules Expectations Pre-assessment | Review of previous day |
| 10:15 | | BREAK | BREAK | BREAK | BREAK |
| 10:30 | | CWA 15793:2008 LABORATORY BIORISK MANAGEMENT AWARENESS TRAINING MODULE 1: Introduction Pre-assessment MODULE 2: Background of CWA 15793:2008 standard MODULE 3: Management system terminology and concepts MODULE 4: Overview of CWA 15793:2008 standard | ☼ Emergency response & contingency plans Accident/Incident investigation Facility physical requirements ☼ Equipment and maintenance ☼ Decontamination, disinfection and sterilization ☼ Transport procedures ☼ Security | 1. TERMS USED FOR SHIPPING INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES Lecture Exercise 1 Quiz 1 and Review | 4. MARKING AND LABELLING PACKAGES OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES Lecture Exercise 4 Quiz 4 and Review |
| 12:00 | | LUNCH | LUNCH | LUNCH | LUNCH |
| 13:30 | | MODULE 5: Implementation and element description MODULE 6: Understanding the CWA 15793:2008 ☼ Biorisk management system | Case Study MODULE 7: Where do we go from here? | 2. CATEGORIZATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES Lecture Exercise 2 Quiz 2 and Review | Review of all modules Final assessment |
| 15:00 | | BREAK | BREAK | BREAK | BREAK |
| 15:15 | | ☼ Risk assessment ☼ Biological agents and toxin inventory and information ☼ General safety Summary and questions | Summary and questions Post-assessment | 3. PACKAGING OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES Lecture Exercise 3 Packaging Demonstration Quiz 3 and Review | 6. SHIPPING INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES WITH DRY ICE Lecture Certificate presentation |
| 17:30 | | CLOSE | CLOSE | CLOSE | CLOSE |
| 19:00 | | Cocktail reception and dinner | | | |

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Editing in October 2011



**Pan American
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