Exempt Recombinant DNA and/or Transgenic Organism Experiments

The NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules specifies certain experiments as being exempt from review by the IBC. Experiments that qualify for this category do not need approval by the UT TYLER IBC. To determine if your experiments are exempt please consult the Guidelines; a short reference guide is presented here.

- Recombinant DNA that is never going to be in an organism or virus. Exempt (III-F-1)
- Recombinant DNA that is from a single non-chromosomal or viral source. Exempt (III-F-2)
- Recombinant DNA that is solely from a prokaryotic host and propagated in the same host or transferred to another host by naturally occurring means. Exempt (III-F-3)
- Recombinant DNA that is from a eukaryotic host and propagated in the same host. Exempt (III-F-4)
- Recombinant DNA that is from species that naturally exchange DNA. Exempt (III-F-5)
- Recombinant DNA that is of a type which does not present a significant risk to health or environment, as determined by the NIH. Exempt (III-F-6)

Exempt Microbial Agents, Infectious Agents or Toxin Experiments

The CDC Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories lists the biosafety containment level for most organisms and viruses. To determine the BSL for your experiment consult the BMBL manual 4th Edition or most current version. The following experiments do not need approval by the UT TYLER IBC.

- BSL-1 or BLP-1 work involving well-characterized agents not known to consistently cause disease in healthy adult humans or animals, and of minimal potential hazard to laboratory personnel and the environment (e.g. standard E.coli laboratory strains.), except when the agent will be genetically modified such that it does not qualify for exempt status under recombinant DNA guidelines.
- Toxins stored in total quantity below amounts as defined by the select agent program. www.cdc.gov/od/sap/sap/toxinamt.htm

Exempt Vertebrate Tissue/Cell Line Experiments

The following experiments do not need approval by the UT TYLER IBC.

- Any tissue that is acquired already preserved in a standard fixative for more than 24 hours.
- Any non-primate tissue that is harvested from a laboratory animal that is exempt by NIH Recombinant DNA Guidelines and does not contain an infectious agent or toxin.

The ATCC lists the biosafety containment level for many vertebrate cell lines. www.atcc.org Protocols that use cell lines which are BSL-2 or higher require a Biosafety Application. Protocols that use BSL-1 cell lines are not automatically exempt from review; researchers should consult with the IBC for clarification.