

Department of Employment and Labour

NO. R. 2693

31 October 2022

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993

I, **THEMBELANI WALTERMADE NXESI**, the Minister of Employment and Labour hereby, under section 43 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993), made the following amendments to the Regulations for Hazardous Biological Agents as published in Notice No. 46051, in Gazette No. 11406, published on 16 March 2022 as follows:

“vulnerable employee” means an employee who is at a higher risk of injury, disease or complications;

4(2)(j) the differing effects of exposure to hazardous biological agents to men, women, young employees and vulnerable employees, where such difference may exist;

4(3) The employer must ensure that the information, instruction and training referred to in subregulation (2) are provided before an employee is potentially exposed to HBAs.

4(5) An employer or self-employed person must give instructions in writing of the procedures contemplated in subregulation (2)(a) to the drivers of vehicles carrying HBAs.

6(3)(e) what effects the HBA can have on men, women, young employees, including pregnant, immunocompromised and vulnerable employees where such difference may exist;

10(4)(e)(vi) positive static air pressure differential from infectious process to human occupied zones;

ANNEXURE A

CATEGORISATION OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS ACCORDING TO RISK GROUP

INTRODUCTION

1. Biological agents listed are categorised into the following risk groups on the basis of their ability to cause human disease by infection, allergy and/or toxicity, potential to cause epidemics or pandemics, endemicity in South Africa and availability of curative or prophylactic treatment:

- (a) Risk Group 1 HBA, an HBA that is unlikely to cause human disease;
- (b) Risk Group 2 HBA, an HBA that may cause human disease and be a hazard to exposed persons, which is unlikely to spread to the community and for which effective prophylaxis and treatment is usually available;
- (c) Risk Group 3 HBA, an HBA that may cause severe human disease, which presents a serious hazard to exposed persons and which may present a risk of spreading to the community, but for which effective prophylaxis and treatment may be available; and
- (d) Risk Group 4 HBA, an HBA that cause severe human disease and is a serious hazard to exposed persons and which may present a high risk of spreading to the community, but for which no effective prophylaxis and treatment is available.

Table 4:

Prescribed risk groups for viruses. This list pertains primarily to human pathogens, but also includes other viruses that may be frequently used in experimentation (for example baculovirus for protein expression) or veterinary pathogens that will be likely processed in medical laboratories (for example BSL 4 agents) (*unassigned species refer to species not specifically listed here) (in alphabetic order per family).

BIOLOGICAL AGENT	RISK GROUP	BIOLOGICAL AGENT	RISK GROUP
<i>Adenoviridae</i> (human, all types)	2	<i>Birnaviridae</i>	2
<i>Alphaviridae</i> :		<i>Bornaviridae</i>	2
Chikungunya	3	<i>Bunyaviridae</i> :	

Eastern equine encephalitis	4	Bunyamwera	3
Middelburg	3	California encephalitis	3
Ndumu	3	Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever	4
O'nyong-nyong	3	Hanta (all species)	4
Ross river	3	Nairobi sheep disease	3
Semliki forest	3	Rift Valley fever	3
Sindbis	2	Sandfly fever	3
Venezuelan equine encephalitis	4	Shuni	3
Western equine encephalitis	4	St Floris	3
Putative <i>alphaviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	3	Putative <i>bunyaviridae</i> species, or unassigned species (not Hanta)	3
<i>Arenaviridae (mammarynaviruses):</i>		<i>Caliciviridae</i>	
Lassa	4	Hepatitis E	2
Lujo	4	Noro	2
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (neurotropic)	3	Sapo	2
New World mammarynaviruses	4	Putative <i>caliciviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	2
Old World mammarynaviruses (other than Lymphocytic choriomeningitis, lassa and Lujo viruses)	3	<i>Coronaviridae (human):</i>	
Putative <i>arenaviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	4	Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) (or MERS-like)	3
<i>Astroviridae</i>	2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-1 (or SARS-like) SARS-CoV-2	3 3 (V)
<i>Baculoviridae</i>	2	Putative <i>coronaviridae</i> species, or unassigned species (suspected of causing human disease)	3

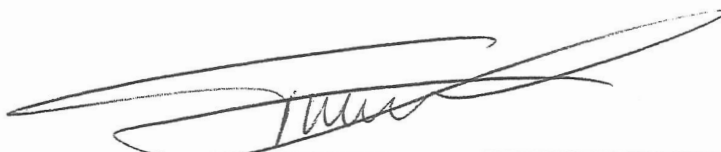
BIOLOGICAL AGENT	RISK GROUP	BIOLOGICAL AGENT	RISK GROUP
<i>Filoviridae</i>		Russian spring summer encephalitis	4
Ebola	4	St Louis encephalitis	3
Marburg	4	Tick-borne encephalitis	4
Putative <i>filoviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	4	Wesselsbron	3
<i>Flaviviridae:</i>		West Nile (including Kunjin)	3
Absettarov	4	Yellow fever (wild type)	3 (V)
Bagaza	3	Zika	3

Banzi	3	Putative <i>flaviviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	3
Bouboui	3	<i>Hepadnaviridae:</i>	
Central European encephalitis	4	Hepatitis B	2 (V)
Dengue	3	Hepatitis D	2
Hanzalova	4	<i>Herpesviridae:</i>	
Hepatitis C	2	Cytomegalo	2
Hepatitis G	3	Epstein Barr	2
Hypr	4	Herpes simplex 1 and 2	2
Israel turkey meningoencephalitis	4	Herpes 6-8	2
Japanese encephalitis	3	Herpes simiae (Herpes B)	4
Kadam	3	Human B lymphotropic	2
Kokobera	3	Varicella zoster	2 (V)
Koutango	3	Putative <i>herpesviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	2
Kumlinge	4	<i>Orthomyxoviridae:</i>	
Kyansanur Forest	4	Avian influenza	3
Langat	4	Dhori	3
Louping ill	4	Influenza (human)	2 (V)
Murray Valley encephalitis	3	Tick borne orthomyxo	2
Negishi	3	Thogoto	3
Ntaya	3	<i>Papovaviridae:</i>	
Omsk	4	JC/BK	2
Powassan	3	Papilloma	2 (V)
Rocio	3	Polyoma	2
San Perlita	3	Simian virus 40 (SV40)	2
Spondweni	3	Putative <i>orthomyxoviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	3
Uganda S	3		
BIOLOGICAL AGENT	RISK GROUP	BIOLOGICAL AGENT	RISK GROUP
<i>Paramyxoviridae:</i>		<i>Poxviridae:</i>	
Hendra	4	Molluscum contagiosum	2
Measles	2 (V)	Monkeypox	4
Mumps	2 (V)	Variola (minor and major)	4
Nipah	4	Yatapox (Tana- and Yabapox)	3

Parainfluenza	2	Reoviridae:	
Rinderpest	4	Bluetongue	2
Putative <i>paramyxoviridae</i> species, or unassigned species	4	Colti	2
Parvoviridae:		Orbi (including Colorado tick fever)	3
Parvovirus (human B19)	2	Reo	2
Picornaviridae:		Rota	2 (V)
Acute haemorrhagic conjunctivitis	2	Retroviridae:	
Coxsackie	2	Human Immunodeficiency	3*
Echo	2	Human T cell lymphotropic	3
Encephalomyocarditis	2	Simian Immunodeficiency	3
Entero	2	Rhabdoviridae:	
Hepatitis A	2 (V)	Rabies	2 (V)
Polio (Type 1, 3) (Type 2)	2 (V) 3	Rabies related (including new, unassigned species)	3
Pneumoviridae:		Putative rhabdoviridae species, or unassigned species	3
Human metapneumo	2	Togaviridae (also see alphaviruses):	
Respiratory syncytial	2	Rubella	2 (V)

* Biosafety level 2 conditions are applicable to clinical specimens and non-culture procedures. Biosafety level 3 conditions are required for all culture procedures.

** Biosafety level 3 conditions are applicable to clinical specimens and non-culture procedures. Biosafety level 4 conditions are required for all culture procedures



MR TW NXESI, MP
MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR
DATE: 06/10/2022