Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

ARE YOU TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT GENE TECHNOLOGY USING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)?

If so, the Gene Technology Act 2000 and corresponding state laws will affect you. These laws regulate the use of gene technology wherever it takes place in Australia. Under Australian law, all 'dealings' with GMOs must be either licensed, notified or exempt.

Work undertaken by students in schools will most likely not require a licence. There are commercial biotechnology kits available that meet the criteria for an exempt dealing and cater for the needs of secondary schools eg. kits for adding green fluorescent protein marker genes to specific *E. coli* cultures.

IS YOUR WORK 'EXEMPT' ?

To be exempt from licensing, you should ensure that experiments:

- meet the definition of an 'exempt dealing' described in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the regulations; and
- do not release viable GMOs into the outside environment.

If you can't meet these conditions, you will need to seek approval from the Gene Technology Regulator.

What Dealings With GMOs are Classified as Exempt Dealings? – rtf 995kb or pdf 56kb

WHAT LEVEL OF CONTAINMENT IS REQUIRED FOR EXEMPT DEALINGS?

From 1 July 2007, minimum specified containment conditions are no longer required for conducting exempt dealings. To assist organisations in determining how to undertake exempt dealings and avoid intentional release, the OGTR has developed *Guidance Notes* (which are effectively equivalent to Physical Containment Level 1 (PC1) requirements).

Guidance for containment of exempt dealings – rtf 328kb or pdf 82kb

• For further information contact us:

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
MDP 54, PO Box 100
Woden ACT 2606
Freecall: 1800 181 030
Fax: 02 6271 4202
Email: ogtr@health.gov.au
Website: www.ogtr.gov.au