

Section W: Requirements for a Physical Containment Level 1 (PC1) Plant Containment Facility

Introduction

The work that can be conducted in a facility that is certified as a Physical Containment Level 1 (PC1) Plant Containment Facility includes dealings (notifiable low risk dealings or licensed dealings) with low risk, non-infectious GM plants and viable parts of GM plants (“GM plant material”) specifically approved by the Regulator. These facilities may contain plant growth chambers that provide a greater level of containment.

In the absence of an express, written authorisation from the Regulator to conduct a particular dealing in accordance with the requirements of this containment level, dealings must only be conducted in facilities certified to at least PC2.

These requirements do not apply to exempt dealings which, as required under sub-regulation 6(c) of the Regulations, must be carried out in facilities that comply with AS2243:3:1995 (*Safety in laboratories: microbiology*) for Physical Containment level 1. Facilities used for exempt dealings do not have to be certified by the Regulator.

Requirements

1. The facility and all operating procedures must comply with all requirements specified in AS/NZS 2243:3:2002 (Safety in laboratories; Part3: microbiological aspects and containment facilities) for Physical Containment Level 1 (PC1) Plant Containment Facility requirements.
2. Drainage exits must be designed to prevent the entry of rodents.
3. The facility must be secure from access by persons not authorised to enter the facility when the facility is unattended. The access door(s) to the facility and the building in which the facility is housed must be lockable.
4. No GM plants may be grown to flowering stage in PC1 level containment.
5. All viable GM plant material that is transported from the facility (including to disposal facilities) must be transported in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Transport of GMOs*.
6. GM plant material may only be disposed of if it has first been rendered non-viable or by incineration.
7. All equipment, growth medium and containers used for handling cultures or contaminated equipment that is not autoclaved or steam sterilised immediately after use must be chemically disinfected immediately after use.

8. All containers of GM plants and GM plant material must be clearly labelled to ensure that GM plant material is able to be distinguished from non-GM plant material.
9. The name and contact number of the person to be contacted in case of an emergency must be listed on or near all access doors.
10. The facility must be labelled with a sign supplied by the OGTR on the outside of the facility access door(s) designating the type of facility.