



CHANGES TO TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

Why have the changes occurred?

In early 2007 the Gene Technology Regulator circulated draft revised Guidelines for the Transport of GMOs. The proposed revisions were based on operational experience over the previous five years and feedback from stakeholders.

New Guidelines for the Transport of GMOs have now been issued. They will come into effect from **1 July 2007**.

What changes have occurred?

The Guidelines for the Transport of GMOs have been revised to re-organise the conditions of transport according to level of containment and by type of GMO. This refinement aligns conditions of transportation of GMOs to the level of risk and the type of organism involved.

The revised Transport Guidelines adopt a more outcome-oriented (rather than prescriptive) approach. For example, the condition relating to decontamination before transport, requires that the outermost container must be free of contamination, rather than mandating decontamination prior to transport.

In some cases requirements have been reduced. An example of this is in changes relating to transport of GMOs inside a building:

- certain labelling and accounting requirements are no longer mandated for transport of GMOs that takes place entirely within a building; and
- records are no longer required to be kept for transport within a building or campus.

The revised Transport Guidelines also include greater detail and explanatory notes to help inform readers and avoid ambiguities in interpretation. Definitions have also been improved where necessary.

The section relating to exempt dealings has been deleted as it will no longer be applicable from 1 July 2007.

More information about the changes can be obtained from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator website at www.ogtr.gov.au, by email to ogtr@health.gov.au or by telephoning 1800 181 030