

# Requirements for Research Classified as **BL1-P** in *The NIH Guidelines Appendix L*

The BL-P classification refers to research involving plants that housed in greenhouses and are introduced to genetically modified agents and/or are themselves genetically modified.

Research classified as BL1-P must adhere to the listed requirements. Failure to follow these requirements would result in an incident report submitted to the Virginia Tech IBC and NIH Office of Science Policy.

## **BL1-P Requirements:**

- Follow all BSL-1 facility and containment requirements and greenhouse-specific manuals.
- Access to the greenhouse shall be limited or restricted, at the discretion of the Greenhouse Director, when experiments are in progress.
- Prior to entering the greenhouse, personnel shall be required to read and follow instructions on BL1-P greenhouse practices and procedures. All procedures shall be performed in accordance with accepted greenhouse practices that are appropriate to the experimental organism.
- A record shall be kept of experiments currently in progress in the greenhouse facility.
- Experimental organisms shall be rendered biologically inactive by appropriate methods before disposal outside of the greenhouse facility.
- A program shall be implemented to control undesired species (e.g., weed, rodent, or arthropod pests and pathogens), by methods appropriate to the organisms and in accordance with applicable state and Federal laws.
- Arthropods and other motile macroorganisms shall be housed in appropriate cages. If macroorganisms (e.g., flying arthropods or nematodes) are released within the greenhouse, precautions shall be taken to minimize escape from the greenhouse facility.
- Experiments involving other organisms that require a containment level lower than BL1-P may be conducted in the greenhouse concurrently with experiments that require BL1-P containment, provided that all work is conducted in accordance with BL1-P greenhouse practices.
- The greenhouse floor may be composed of gravel or other porous material. At a minimum, impervious (e.g., concrete) walkways are recommended.
- Windows and other openings in the walls and roof of the greenhouse facility may be open for ventilation as needed for proper operation and do not require any special barrier to contain or exclude pollen, microorganisms, or small flying animals (e.g., arthropods and birds); however, screens are recommended.