Biological Dealing(s) Registration

Information Guide

The University Biosafety Committee (UBC) requires the registration of biological dealings for projects or activities that involve organisms, substances or other materials of biological origin that may be classified as moderate to high risk. The types of dealings included are defined in this guide.
Activities involving Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are reviewed separately by the UBC and are not covered as part of this guide. The GMO approval processes should be consulted for further information on the application process and approvals required to work with GMOs. If the biological material has been explicitly reviewed as part of an application to work with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) additional registration is not required.
All Biological Dealings can be registered in the Activity Register within GSafe. If you are unsure of the risk posed by a biological dealing or the registration required please contact ubc@griffith.edu.au for further information.

TYPES OF OTHER BIOLOGICAL DEALINGS REQUIRING REGISTRATION

Registration is required for all research, teaching or fieldwork activities, that involve one or more of the following biological materials:

A. Wildtype risk group 2 with special precautions, risk group 3 or 4 micro-organisms;
All activities involving risk group 2 with special precautions, risk group 3 or 4 micro-organisms as defined in AS/NZ 2243:2010 Part 3 must be registered. If the micro-organisms will be cultured in volumes greater than 10 litres per individual vessel this should be noted on the materials section of the application form.

B. Wild type risk group 2 micro-organisms cultured in volumes greater than 10 litres;
All activities involving the culture of risk group 2 micro-organisms in volumes greater than 10 litres per individual vessels must be registered. The registration of activities with risk group 2 micro-organisms in volumes <10L is also strongly encouraged.

C. Potentially infectious tissues or fluids including unscreened clinical specimens;

All activities involving human or animal tissues, fluids or other material which are reasonably suspected of or have been identified as containing viable risk group, 2, 3 or 4 micro-organisms must be registered. In addition, all activities involving clinical specimens must be registered.

D. Activities involving poisonous or venomous animals or biological toxins;
Where an activity or project involves the handling of poisonous animals, invertebrates, fish or other organisms that produce venom or toxins that have the potential to cause significant injury the dealing must be registered. Examples include venomous snakes, spiders, jelly fish and cone shells.

If an activity or project involves the handling or use of a biological toxin (or biotoxin), that has the potential to cause significant illness or death to humans then the dealing must also be registered. For example, snake venom. The term biotoxin generally describes any toxic material that originated from a biological source such as venoms but also includes synthesised molecules. Activities involving endotoxins or toxoids do not need to be registered, unless they are being used in such a way or in enough quantity to present a significant risk to individuals or the community. For further clarification and for information on individual projects please email ubc@griffith.edu.au.

E. Biological material that appears on the Defence Strategic Goods List (DSGL);

Certain biological material that have a potentially military use or could be used to develop weapons of mass destruction are listed on the Defence Strategic Good Lists (DSGLs) and their supply and exportation is regulated. Activities involving material on the DSGLs must be registered with UBC who will notify the Office of research for further guidance and permits. Further information on the DSGL can be found at the following link.

F. Biological material involving Security Sensitive Biological Material (SSBA's);

A number of microorganisms which have the potential to cause significant damage to human health, the environment and the Australian economy are classified as Security Sensitive Biological Agents (SSBAs) by The Department of Health. Before any activities with SSBA's, material suspected of being or containing SSBAs proceeds, the activity must be registered with the UBC. The UBC will then register the activity with The Department of Health. Further information on SSBAs can be found at the following link.

UBC APPLICATION TYPES

The flow chart in Appendix 1 outlines the registration required for each category of biological material.

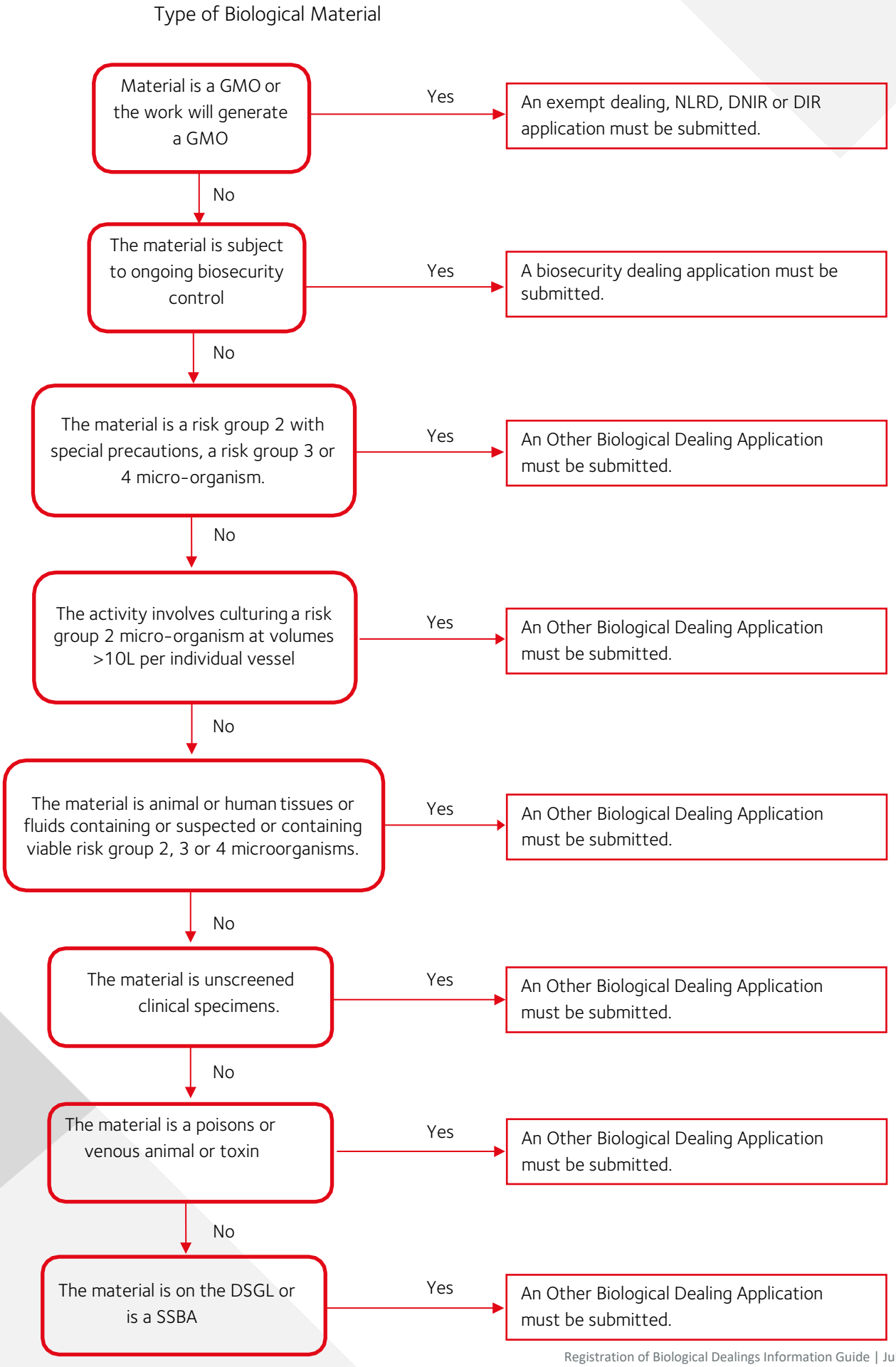
REGISTRATION PROCESS

For information on how to register a biological dealing in GSafe please see the GSafe Biological Dealing Application Quick Reference Guide.

Note:

- If the activity or project involves multiple numbers or types of other biological dealings, they can be submitted on the same application.
- Storage of biological material is also considered to be a dealing.
- In instances where an Other Biological Dealing has been assessed as part of GMO dealing application then a separate registration is not required.

DE-REGISTRATION

Once the project or activity is complete or has been discontinued, the dealing can be easily de-registered by opening the application in GSafe and clicking the 'Close' icon displayed at the top of the page. You will then be prompted to confirm that you have disposed of any material or appropriately transferred it to another licence, registration or organisation before the record is archived.

Appendix 1: UBC Application Types