



Ready Reference Short Glossary

RR5

For a more comprehensive glossary, please visit
<http://bch.biodiv.org/help/glossary.shtml>

Academic Compendium of Biosafety Training Courses

The Compendium includes a listing of recurrent biosafety education and training programs offered by academic and other relevant institutions around the world.

Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) procedure

For LMOs to be intentionally introduced into the environment. *See RR7: decisions and declarations.*

Article 11 decisions

For LMOs intended for direct use as feed or food or for processing. *See RR7: decision and declarations.*

BCH Web Service

The BCH web service is a platform-independent system that can be used by other applications (software) to exchange information with the BCH.

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

The Biosafety Clearing-House was established under Article 20 of the Biosafety Protocol in order to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and to assist Parties to implement the Protocol.

BCH Central Portal

The Central Portal is maintained by the CBD Secretariat as the web-based main point of entry to find information in the Biosafety Clearing-House. Among other things, the Central Portal aggregates information relevant to implementation of the Biosafety Protocol that is provided by different sources, and provides users with the ability to search for information in six languages.

Biosafety Expert

An individual with expertise in one or more biosafety-related disciplines who is nominated by his/her government to the Roster of Experts on biosafety.

Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC)

The BIRC is an online searchable database containing electronic catalogues of biosafety-related publications and information resources (including: news services, e-mail listservs, online databases and search engines, reports and case studies, journals and newsletters, as well as teaching materials (manuals, toolkits and presentations).



Biosafety Protocol

See Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Capacity-Building

Under Article 22 of the Protocol, capacity-building focuses on the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety, including biotechnology to the extent that it is required for biosafety of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, for their effective implementation of the Biosafety Protocol.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Biosafety Protocol)

The Biosafety Protocol is an international agreement negotiated and adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Objective of the Protocol is to contribute, in accordance with the precautionary approach contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements. Please see the Protocol web site for further information.

CBD Secretariat

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) established a Secretariat that undertakes functions described under Article 24 of the Convention. The CBD Secretariat (based in Montreal, Canada) also serves as the Secretariat of the Biosafety Protocol. The Secretariat maintains the Central Portal of the BCH.

Central Portal

See BCH Central Portal

Common Format

A standardized way to organize and present information to the BCH. Common formats make searching for information in the BCH databases easier and more efficient.

Common name

The common name of an organism is name by which an organism is generally known as outside of its scientific taxonomic name (e.g. *Gossypium hirsutum* is commonly known as cotton).

Competent national authority (CNA)

Competent national authorities are designated and authorized by governments to be responsible for performing the administrative functions required by Article 19 of the Biosafety Protocol, and to act on their behalf with respect to those functions.

**Conference of the Parties (COP)**

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity is the intergovernmental supreme decision-making body with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP/MOP)

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP) serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (the 'COP-MOP'), in accordance with Article 29 of the Protocol. The COP-MOP consists of all Parties to the Protocol and its main functions are to review the implementation of the Protocol and make decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation.

Contained use

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, contained use means any operation, undertaken within a facility, installation or other physical structure, which involves living modified organisms that are controlled by specific measures that effectively limit their contact with, and their impact on, the external environment.

Controlled Vocabulary

A pre-defined list of terms and related synonyms available in multiple languages, used to register and search for information in the BCH databases.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international agreement dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies and by appropriate funding. The Biosafety Protocol is an international agreement negotiated and adopted under the CBD.

Convention on Biological Diversity National Focal Point (CBD-NFP)

Convention on Biological Diversity National Focal Points (CBD-NFPs) are responsible for communication with the CBD Secretariat on a particular topic. (The BCH Central Portal only provides the CBD-NFP(s) of a government when no Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety National Focal Point (CPB-NFP) is available.)

Current Awareness Mailing List

This service sends out regular updates summarizing new information that has been added to the BCH, sent directly to users by email (or to a specified fax number). The categories of information to be included in the summaries, and the frequency of their delivery can be individually customized by each user.

**Decisions**

The BCH provides access to final decisions taken by Parties to the Protocol regarding the importation or release of living modified organisms. See *RR7: decisions and declarations*.

Discussion forum

The discussion forums are a service that allows users to exchange information on a variety of topics related to operation of the BCH and implementation of the Protocol.

Domestic regulatory framework

A domestic regulatory framework may include national laws, regulations and guidelines for implementation of the Biosafety Protocol.

Donor organism

The organism that donates genetic material to the host organism.

Downloadable file

Files that may be downloaded from the BCH in word or PDF format include lists of NFPs and CNAs that are generated on a daily basis, BCH-related forms and documents, and modules of the BCH training toolkit.

Export

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, export means intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms from one Party to another Party.

Exporter

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, exporter means any legal or natural person, under the jurisdiction of the Party of export, who arranges for a living modified organism to be exported.

Extensible Markup Language (XML)

Extensible Markup Language describes a class of data objects called XML documents and partially describes the behavior of computer programs which process them. XML is an application profile or restricted form of SGML, the Standard Generalized Markup Language. Please see the W3C recommendation for more information.

Free text

Refers to any non-standardized form field where the user may type in an entry, as opposed to having to refer to a controlled vocabulary.

Genetically modified organism (GMO)

See *living modified organism (LMO)*.

**Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention) as well as the Biosafety Protocol (in accordance with Article 28 of the Protocol). It was established in 1991 to help developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment.

Handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs

Article 18 of the Protocol addresses the issue of handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs.

Header Bar

This bar provides links to general information about the BCH website and appears on most pages of the BCH website.

Import

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, import means intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms into one Party from another Party.

Importer

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, importer means any legal or natural person, under the jurisdiction of the Party of import, who arranges for a living modified organism to be imported.

Intergovernmental organization (IGO)

Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) are collective groups where the members are comprised of nation states, as opposed to individuals. To be considered an IGO a formal agreement or treaty must be convened and a membership base of more than three governments. There must also be the establishment of a permanent secretariat which is designated to perform ongoing tasks.

Interoperability

The ability for information to be shared across applications, platforms, or systems. Further information on making your data interoperable with the BCH is available in Module 4 of the BCH toolkit.

Introduced or modified trait

An introduced or modified trait is a genetic trait introduced to create an LMO. Examples include chemical tolerance, pest resistance, virus resistance, reproductive alteration, etc.

Keyword search

A free word search function that includes several fields in the BCH databases.

**Left navigation bar**

The main navigation bar for the BCH website – it appears on most pages of the BCH website.

Living modified organism (LMO)

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, a living modified organism is any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology. (It is broadly equivalent to a genetically modified organism, or GMO).

Living modified organism (LMO) products

According to Article 20.3(c) of the Protocol, LMO products are processed material that are of living modified organism origin, containing detectable novel combinations of replicable genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

Living modified organism intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMO-FFP)

LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or processing represent a large category of agricultural commodities.

Living Organism

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, living organism means any biological entity capable of transferring or replicating genetic material, including sterile organisms, viruses and viroids.

Management Centre

The Management Centre is an area on the BCH Central Portal where registered users can enter, delete, or update information in the BCH databases.

Modern biotechnology

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, "modern biotechnology means the application of:

- a. In vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or
- b. Fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection".

National Authorized User

National Authorized Users are nominated by BCH National Focal Points, and are permitted to register information with the BCH. However, to ensure the authenticity of the information, the BCH National Focal Point is required to verify the accuracy of any record before it is validated and made public.

**National Biosafety Framework (NBF)**

A national biosafety framework may include a combination of policy, legal, administrative and technical instruments that are set in place to address safety for the environment and human health in relation to modern biotechnology.

National Focal Point

National Focal Points are responsible for liaison with the Secretariat on particular issues. *See RR9: People and Organizations.*

Party to the Cartagena Protocol

A State or regional economic integration organization that has ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Protocol (i.e. a country which has agreed to make the Protocol legally binding).

Quick Search

A fast and simple search of records held in the BCH databases. It appears on the top of the left navigation bar.

Regional economic integration organization

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, a regional economic integration organization is an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Protocol and which has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to it.

Resource Description Framework (RDF)

A common framework for representing information about resources on the web that can be exchanged between different applications or systems.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment is an environmental review of an LMO generated by a regulatory process, and carried out in accordance with Article 15 and Annex III of the Protocol.

Roster of Experts

A regionally balanced Roster of Experts in biosafety, nominated by Governments, was established by COP decision EM-I/3 and aims “to provide advice and other support, as appropriate and upon request, to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to conduct risk assessment, make informed decisions, develop national human resources and promote institutional strengthening, associated with the transboundary movements of living modified organisms.” The Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety explains the operations of the roster and the roles and responsibilities of the administrator (the Executive Secretary), nominating governments, and experts.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

See CBD Secretariat

**Thesaurus of the BCH**

See Controlled vocabulary

Training Modules for the BCH

Interactive tutorials prepared under the UNEP-GEF BCH Project that explain how to use the BCH website to find and enter information.

Transboundary Movement

Under Article 3 of the Protocol, transboundary movement means the movement of a living modified organism from one Party to another Party, save that, for the purposes of Articles 17 and Article 24, transboundary movement extends to movement between Parties and non-Parties.

Unique Identification (UID)

Unique identification systems are used to identify living modified organisms. They are usually a combination of alphabets and numbers used to distinguish one organism from the other, and allow for attaching and retrieving specific information on the organism.

