

Concept note

BBP Task Force – High Containment Infrastructure

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Purpose:

In order to reach and maintain the qualification of high biological containment¹, facilities and equipment must perform according to demanding requirements. However, many of these requirements remain vaguely defined and/or, given their specificity, are very difficult to certify. In addition, as high containment infrastructure is scarce, there is limited experience and expertise.

The Belgian Biosafety Professionals (BBP) aims to provide a forum for biosafety professionals to exchange experience, developments and issues in biosafety practices and regulation in a Belgian context. This proposal covers the establishment of a BBP working group that enables exchange between actors involved in high containment infrastructure in order to identify bottlenecks and solutions. Topics may include:

- Air-handling specifications
- Room decontamination
- Commissioning equipment (e.g. glove boxes)

Participants:

The HiCon TF should attract motivated, concerned people with experience in high containment infrastructure. Obvious candidate participants include:

- Users
 - o Scientific institutions (e.g. ITM, VIB, UGent, Rega, UAntwerpen)
 - o Pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector (e.g. Janssen Pharmaceutica)
- Services
 - o Constructors of laboratories/animal health facilities
 - o Providers of specific equipment
 - o Biosafety service providers (e.g. Perseus)
 - o Validation & certification service providers

Regulatory authorities (e.g. SBB) can be involved on specific topics at specific moments to be determined by the TF.

Working method:

Meeting: 3 x/year

Location: online or physical by a host/participant

Launch of the HiCon TF:

- Upon agreement of the BBP ST, the HiCon TF will be established and a call for participation will be launched to the BBP membership.
- The HiCon TF needs to determine priorities of topics, possible links with other BBP TFs (e.g. transport, waste handling), need to attract other experts and ways of working.
- A structured approach should guarantee that information is gathered and leads to tangible results (e.g. decision tree, opinion paper).

¹ High containment is defined as any level higher than BSL2. Since no BSL4 facilities are available in Belgium, this will essentially include BSL3 and enhanced BSL3+ infrastructure.