Biological Materials (BSL-1) Safety Practices

A tutorial for interpreting this category on the lab safety checklist
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A sink for hand washing is available and accessible in the lab.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. BIOWASTE TAGS: A completed, blue, BIOWASTE tag is affixed to each biological waste collection container to provide required information on the generator and contents.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Biological waste collection containers are not overfilled, spilling over, or leaking.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. BSL-1 WASTE: Non-biohazardous, biological wastes are collected in clear autoclave bags without a biohazard symbol.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. BSL-1 WASTE: Biological waste collection containers are labeled as &quot;BSL-1&quot; or &quot;Non-biohazardous&quot; since these wastes are not biohazardous, they must not have a biohazard symbol on their container.</td>
<td>☑</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. BSL-1 WASTE: The 30-day storage limit is not exceeded. (see bio-waste tag or label)</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. BSL-1 Animal tissues, organs, and carcasses are stored in leak-proof, closed containers. (This is not &quot;waste&quot; while still needed for teaching or research purposes.)</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS - OTHER</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Question 1.
A sink for hand washing is available and accessible in the lab.

- Labs where experiments and/or classes are conducted must have at least one sink for handwashing available;
- Not all rooms in a group necessarily need to each have a sink; If the spaces in a group are connected, one having a sink in one room would suffice.
- Offices, breakrooms and cold-rooms do not need a sink.
Question 2.

BIOWASTE TAGS: A completed blue BIOWASTE tag is affixed to each biological waste collection container to provide required identification of the generator and contents.

- For this category, we are only looking at BSL-1 (non-hazardous, biological materials);
- BIOWASTE tag must be filled out properly as all information is essential for assessment;
- Absence of BIOWASTE tag in containers with BSL-1 is a common issue.
• All BSL-1 must have a properly filled BIOWASTE tag attached to it, unless container is not being used.

• The BIOWASTE tag is essential as it allows lab members, EHS inspectors, and others to identify the materials present, the start accumulation date, and who’s responsible for that BSL-1 waste.

This label is useful to designate the type of biowaste it should hold. BUT it is not a substitute for the blue tag.
Question 3.

Biological waste collection containers are not overfilled, spilling over, or leaking.

- BSL-1 containers do not need to have lid;
- Containers must be in good shape;
- Containers must not be overfilled, spilling over or leaking.

This is compliant
Question 4.

**BSL-1 WASTE:** Non-biohazardous, biological wastes are collected in clear autoclave bags without a biohazard symbol.

- Do not use regular office trash bags for lab waste.
- Autoclave bags (and clear lab waste bags) are thicker than regular trash liners and less likely to tear open.
- Collect BSL-1 waste in clear autoclave bags with no biohazard symbols.

**BSL-1 lab waste containers must NOT be lined with red biohazard bags! If you see this, mark it as not in compliance.**
Question 4 Notes

Collect BSL-1 waste in **clear** autoclave bags with no biohazard symbols.

- Clear bags purchased for collecting hazardous waste may be used if the waste will not be autoclaved.

This is not compliant for BSL-1 waste.
Question 5.

**BSL-1 WASTE**: Biological waste collection containers are labeled as "BSL-1" or "Non-biohazardous".

Label containers intended to collect (BSL-1) biological wastes to differentiate them from regulated biowaste types.

Biohazardous lab waste is regulated as “medical” waste while BSL-1 waste is not. Since these wastes are not biohazardous, they must not have a biohazard symbol or the words, “biohazardous” on their containers.

This is not compliant. The container must not have the biohazard symbol on it. The “non” added text is not sufficient. Consider using a different container, not one that was purchased and labeled specifically for BSL-2 waste.
Question 6.

BSL-1 WASTE: The 30-day storage limit is not exceeded. (see bio-waste tag or label)

- Check for BIOWASTE tag to verify start accumulation date. If the start date is more than 30 days past the inspection date, it should have been disposed, regardless of being full or not;
- If a container does not have a BIOWASTE tag, this item should be marked as not-compliant as well, because we can’t verify the start accumulation date.

Let’s look at an example on the next slide
• This item was inspected on April 30th of 2021
• It is possible that they simply have not updated the BIOWASTE tag, however, it should still be marked as non-compliant.
Question 7.

BSL-1 animal tissues, organs, and carcasses are stored in leak-proof, closed containers.

- As long as these materials are still needed for teaching or research purposes, they are not “waste”.

- The containers must be labeled with contents and owner, but do not need a blue waste tag while “in use” status.

- The waste storage requirements are enforced when they are stored and ready for disposal.

This is compliant.
8. BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS - OTHER

- Any other item not addressed in previous questions should be reported here;
- The issue should be described in detail in the notes; A suggestion can also be made in the notes;
- If nothing to report here, mark N/A.