

**AD HOC GROUP OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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ARTICLE II

DEFINITIONS

12. Maximum biological containment [(BL-4 - WHO and OIE classification)] means

Any room or suite of rooms, laboratory(ies) or other buildings or structures with the following features:

(a) Designed or used to handle and work with biological agents causing disease and known or suspected to meet either:

- (i) The classification criteria of Risk Group 4 human pathogens, as determined by the States Parties and specified in the 1993 WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual; or
- (ii) The classification criteria of Group 4 animal pathogens, as determined by the States Parties and specified in the Amendment to the International Animal Health Code adopted by the International Committee of the OIE during its 66th General Session, 1998; **or**

(b) **Consistent with the guidelines specified for high biological containment (BL-3 - WHO classification) and the additional requirements specified in the 1993 WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual for BL-4, as follows:**

- (i) **An airlock system for a complete change of clothing and a shower on exit;**
- (ii) **A pass-through autoclave system;**

- (iii) For work with human or zoonotic pathogens, a Class III biological safety cabinet and/or self-contained positive-pressure ventilated suits and a special chemical decontamination shower for leaving the containment area;**
- (iv) Collection and decontamination of hand washing and shower water;**
- (v) HEPA filtration of incoming air;**
- (vi) For work with animal pathogens Class I, II or III biological safety cabinets.**
