



Maintaining appropriate levels of identification, warning, and security in the storage of biohazardous materials is integral to maintaining best practices in the laboratory.



The universal biohazard warning labels (image above) shall be posted on the outside door of each laboratory and on any equipment used for storage or manipulation of biohazardous material which is potentially infectious to humans. Materials considered infectious to humans include but are not limited to:

- Human pathogens, Risk Group 2* and above (viral, bacterial, fungal, parasitic, or prion)
- Animal blood and/or tissues infected with agents also infectious to humans
- Human blood, blood products, or fluids
- Human derived cell lines or tissues
- Viral vectors
- Live vaccines

* http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/Guidelines/NIH_Guidelines.htm#_Toc351276291

Examples of proper placement of a label using the universal biohazard symbol include:

- Doors to laboratories which contain or manipulate materials
- Animal Housing or Procedure rooms where agents infectious to humans are present
- All equipment and materials used to manipulate, or store these materials (ex: centrifuges, freezers)
- Containers used to transport biohazardous materials between locations
- Waste containers for untreated biohazardous waste

Laboratories working solely with a) animals, plants or insects, or b) agents infectious to these organisms should use appropriate signage not containing the universal biohazard warning symbol.