

(PREVIEW)

Indian Standard

CODE OF SAFETY IN
MICROBIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

0. FOREWORD

0.1 This Indian Standard was adopted by the Indian Standards Institution on 29 August 1986, after the draft finalized by the Chemical Hazards Sectional Committee had been approved by the Chemical Division Council.

0.2 In microbiological laboratories, the special hazard is infection of laboratory staff and possible dissemination of infection to the general population. Such a hazard cannot be adequately visualised in terms of 'accidents' in the conventional sense. Laboratory infections can occur in the absence of any obvious accident, due to poor technique or poor laboratory discipline in the course of routine work. Accordingly, a special awareness of the 'unseen hazard' in microbiological work is of great importance in safety. Apart from this, cuts with broken glass, bites and scratches by laboratory chemicals, explosion of gases and solvents, poisoning by chemicals and accidents involving electricity may occur in the microbiological laboratory.

0.2.1 The potential hazards of work involving genetic engineering and recombinant DNA are as yet unclear.

0.3 This standard is one of a series of Indian Standards on 'safety in laboratories'. The other standards published are IS : 4209-1966*, IS : 4906-1968† and IS : 5931-1970‡.

1. SCOPE

1.1 This code recommends safety for microbiological laboratories engaged in research, teaching, hospital, pharmaceutical and quality control operations.

1.1.1 These guidelines are of a general nature and not comprehensive enough to cover specific problems of safety associated with all pathogens of every description or research in molecular biology.

1.1.2 Details of fire and chemical hazards are not covered in this standard.