



Accidents and Incidents

Notification of Accidents and Incidents involving Genetic Modification Activities to the Health and Safety Executive

There is a requirement under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations to immediately notify the Health and Safety Executive of any accident or incident involving a significant or unintended release of a genetically modified organism that presents an immediate or delayed hazard to either human health and safety or the environment. This requirement is in addition to any notification requirements under RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).

It is the responsibility of the University Health and Safety Department to make notifications to the Health and Safety Executive of any accidents or incidents occurring within the University that require to be notified either under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations or RIDDOR. Schools should not make any such notification, instead they should contact the University Health and Safety Department as detailed below.

Schools should immediately inform the University Health and Safety Department in the event of any accident or incident involving a significant spillage or release of any genetically modified organisms or microorganisms or where exposure to a genetically modified microorganism may have occurred. A full accident investigation carried out and forwarded to the Health and Safety Department as soon as possible.

The University Health and Safety Department will decide whether any accident or incident requires notification to HSE, be it under the Contained Use Regulations or RIDDOR. Details of what constitutes a significant GMO incident is given in the [HSE Guidance on the Genetically Modified Organisms \(Contained Use\) Regulations](#).

As this includes information on which accidents are likely to require notification, what information is required and what happens to the information when a notification is made. Schools should contact the University Biological Safety Adviser if they wish to discuss any points or seek further advice.

Following notification of an accident under the Contained Use Regulations, it is possible that one of the Health and Safety Executive's Specialist GM Inspectors will visit to investigate the circumstances of the accident and to confirm that appropriate measures have been taken to ensure there is no recurrence.

Note: The information contained within these pages is for use by University of Edinburgh personnel only.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH Health & Safety Department

If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the above then please contact your School Safety Adviser or Biological Safety Adviser.

Document version

Version number	Summary of change	Date and by whom
V2.0	New template, and minor updates to information and HSE weblink.	10/08/2023 P. Walsh

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact The Health and Safety Department on health.safety@ed.ac.uk or call (0131) 651 4255