Authorization for the Acquisition of Biological Material

The University’s Human Pathogen and Toxin Licences for Risk Group 2 material and Risk Group 3 which restricts possession to only HIV; also regulate its:

- Importation,
- Exportation,
- Acquisition, and
- Transfers.

Security Sensitive Biological Agents (SSBA) and Toxins are prohibited at the University of Ottawa as our licence does not permit possession of these. (Exempt quantities of specific toxins are allowed). SSBA list is found at https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/laboratory-biosafety-biosecurity/human-pathogens-toxins-act/security-sensitive-biological-agents.html

Both the Public Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency also regulates and prescribes criteria that must be met action. Other regulatory bodies such as Environment Canada and Climate Change, Fisheries and Ocean etc., also may have requirements to be met, or reported on.

Institutional Approval is documented and the inventory authorized to be acquired are outlined in the Biological Material Use Certificate issued to the principal investigator. This must be considered prior to making arrangements in acquiring material from: colleagues, commercial suppliers, or from medical institutions in the case of patience samples.

In all cases of the Designated Biosafety Officer representing the consignor and the consignee must sign off on any transfer.

As obtaining the necessary approval may take significant time, especially for material regulated by CFIA, adequate lead time is necessary.