

# ATTACHMENT A

## DEFINITION OF HAZARD CATEGORIES

**Excerpted from:** VHA Handbook 1200.08 (March 6, 2009)

**Biohazards.** Biohazards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Pathogens and etiologic agents, human and non-human primate tissues including blood and body secretions, and human cell lines corresponding to BSL 1-4;
- (2) Toxins produced by microbial organisms (see Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-National Institutes of Health (NIH). [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories 5<sup>th</sup> Edition pp 286-298](#));
- (3) Poisonous, toxic, parasitic and venomous animals or plants;
- (4) Recombinant DNA molecules;
- (5) Select agents, as specified in Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 73; 7 CFR 331; and 9 CFR 121;<http://www.selectagents.gov/Select%20Agents%20and%20Toxins%20List.html>; and
- (6) Animals experimentally or naturally exposed to any of the above (see CDC-NIH. [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories 5th Edition, pp 72-117](#)).

**Chemical Hazards.** Chemical hazards include any substance or mixture of substances with properties capable of producing adverse effects on the health and/or safety of humans. Chemical hazard categories include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Corrosives;
- (2) Toxic substances (poisons, irritants, asphyxiates);
- (3) Sensitizers;
- (4) Carcinogens, mutagens and/or teratogens;
- (5) Flammables; and
- (6) Explosives.

**Physical Hazards.** Physical hazards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Ionizing and non-ionizing radiation
- (2) Noise,
- (3) Vibration,
- (4) Extremes of temperature and pressure,
- (5) Explosive hazards,
- (6) Electrical hazards, and
- (7) Mechanical hazards.