Annex 8   
Meaning and use of the “biohazard” warning symbol

**This template must be adapted to the situation in the particular plant.**

1. Purpose

The “biohazard” warning symbol draws attention to the risks due to **Group 2** (or higher) pathogenic or genetically modified organisms and serves to reduce the dispersal and uncontrolled multiplication of organisms and to protect people from unintentional infection.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The warning symbol is aimed at three different groups of people, with a different purpose in each case:

1. It reminds employees that infectious organisms are present in a certain working area and that contamination is to be expected.

It serves to warn plant personnel without the necessary knowledge not to enter the designated area or touch instruments and containers marked in this way.

It serves to draw the attention of the emergency services to the protective measures to be taken.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Principles for application

With regard to the placing of the “biohazard” warning symbol, **(company name)** is guided by the following principles:

1. It is used sparingly to retain its signalling effect.

2. It is positioned in the entrance area to the Level 2 rooms.

3. It is also attached to equipment (e.g. to the incubator) or positioned in working areas **inside** an already marked room if there is a possibility of a higher biohazard risk there **compared with** the immediate surrounding working area.

4. It is attached to the second or third layer of packaging of a sample contained in a pack which is impermeable to liquids if this sample is stored, processed or transported **outside** a marked room.

5. It is attached temporarily to equipment (e.g. to a centrifuge) **outside** a marked laboratory if work involving Group 2 organisms is being done there **as an exception.**

6. It is attached to doors of freezers located **outside** a marked room, if Group 2 organisms are kept there.[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. Special case: handling marked wasted bags

Commercially available, autoclavable waste bags for biological waste carry a warning symbol. After this waste has been autoclaved and inactivated, the “biohazard” warning symbol on the bags is no longer applicable. So this is clear, autoclaved or inactivated waste bags must be identifiable as “autoclaved”. To this end, they are equipped with heat-sensitive indicators.

Inactivated waste must not be disposed of with the industrial waste until the “biohazard” warning symbol is no longer visible. To this end, it is hidden by a second layer in order not to unjustifiably unsettle third parties in the disposal chain.

These requirements are set out in more detail in the disposal concept.

1. Appearance and form of the warning symbol and safety symbol

**(Company name)** uses the European symbol / both hazard symbols in its plant.

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| --- | --- |
| biol-gef |  |
| European biohazard warning symbol[[4]](#footnote-4) | International biohazard symbol  *(with or without text)* |

|  |  |
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| Compiled / authorized |  |
| Date |  |

1. The Containment Ordinance (Einschliessungsverordnung / ESV) provides for the use of the biohazard warning symbol for laboratories of Safely Level 2 and higher. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The labelling of the laboratory corresponds to the similarly identified rooms in the risk plans for the premises of **(company name).**  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. If the insides of the freezers are subdivided into compartments with different doors, the warning symbol is attached to the various internal doors. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Order address:** [www.suva.ch/de-CH/material/Produkte/warnzeichen\_biogefaehrdung\_172961\_4284\_4284/](http://www.suva.ch/de-CH/material/Produkte/warnzeichen_biogefaehrdung_172961_4284_4284/) *.* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)