

BSL 2

Note: This document does not cover all requirements listed in the 5th edition BMBL (Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories), only some of the changes.

1. **A laboratory-specific biosafety manual must be prepared, adopted as policy, and must be available and accessible.** Previously, biosafety procedures could be incorporated into standard operating procedures, instead of having a dedicated biosafety manual (BMBL, B.4.)
2. **The laboratory supervisor must ensure that laboratory personnel “demonstrate proficiency” in standard and special microbiological practices safe before working at this biosafety level.** Previously, demonstration of proficiency before working with agents was not specifically required (BMBL, B.5.)
3. **Spills involving infectious materials must be contained, decontaminated, and cleaned up by staff properly training and equipped to work with infectious material.** This is a new requirement for BSL-2. Previously, decontamination of spills by “trained, equipped personnel” was not specifically required until BSL-3 (BMBL, B.7a.)
4. **Animals and plants are not permitted in the laboratory unless associated with the work being performed.** Previously, BSL-2 restrictions applied to animals, but not plants. Plant restrictions were first noted in BSL-3 (BMBL, B.9.)
5. **Eye and face protection must be disposed of with other contaminated laboratory waste or be decontaminated before reuse –** This is a new requirement (BMBL, C.3.)
6. **Eye, face, and respiratory protection should be used in rooms containing infected animals as determined by the risk assessment.** This is a new requirement for BSL-2. Previously, it was a requirement for BSL-3 (BMBL, C.5.)
7. **Laboratory doors should be self-closing and have locks in accordance with the institutional policies.** Previously, lockable doors at this level were required for facilities housing “restricted” agents (BMBL, D.1.)
8. **Laboratories must have a sink for hand washing. The sink may be manually, hands-free, or automatically operated. It should be located near the exit door.** Previously, a hand-washing sink was required, but not near the exit door until BSL-3. (BMBL, D.2.)
9. **Carpets and rugs in laboratories are not permitted.** Previously, language for BSL-2 laboratories was that rugs and carpets are inappropriate. (BMBL, D.3.)
10. **Vacuum lines should be protected with HEPA filters (or equivalent). Filters must be replaced as needed.** This is a new requirement for BSL-2. Previously, HEPA filters were not required until BSL-3. (BMBL, D.7.)
11. **Provisions to assure proper safety cabinet and air system performance must be verified.** This requirement is new for BSL-2. Previously recommended at BSL-3. (BMBL, D.10.)