GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS PROCEDURE

Section	University Services
Contact	Director Occupational Health & Safety, Wellbeing
Last Review	July 2023
Next Review	July 2026
Approval	Director Occupational Health & Safety, Wellbeing

Purpose:

To provide for safe and responsible use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) at Massey University in a way that protects the environment and the health and safety of people and communities and complies with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) act 1996 and Biosecurity act 1993.

All staff and students conducting research or teaching involving the importation or development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in containment must ensure that their work is carried out in such a way that any adverse effect on the environment is minimised as specified in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996.

Scope:

All Massey University staff, students, and visitors to a Campus.

Procedure:

The importation (including storage and use) and development of GMO's must only take place with approval gained through one of the pathways below:

a) For work involving Low Risk Genetic Modifications (according to HSNO Low-Risk Genetic Modification Regulations 2003), refer to the New Organisms at Massey site for more information, and applications for permission to work under existing broad HSNO approvals.
b) For work involving Genetic Modifications not classified as Low-Risk, applications should be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). See EPA website for details. Before any application is made to the EPA, contact the New Organisms at Massey team to notify them and for advice on how best to proceed.

Work with GMOs at Massey must be undertaken in an MPI approved Transitional and Containment Facility. For further information refer to the Restricted Organisms and Biological Products Procedure.

Some GMOs may also be classified as infectious, pathogenic, or zoonotic organisms. For further information refer to the Infectious, Pathogenic and Zoonotic Organisms Procedure.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all GMO approval conditions are followed. Where facilities or conditions do not meet required criteria, the work must not occur until the substandard matters are remedied, or relocated to laboratories that meet the required criteria.

Definitions:

1. Genetically modified organism means, unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any organism in which any of the genes or other genetic material:
   a) Have been modified by in vitro techniques; or
   b) Are inherited or otherwise derived, through any number of replications, from any genes or other genetic material which has been modified by in vitro techniques.

2. Organism:
   a) does not include a human being.
   b) includes a human cell.
   c) includes a micro-organism.
   d) includes a genetic structure, other than a human cell, that is capable of replicating itself, whether that structure comprises all or only part of an entity, and whether it comprises all or only part of the total genetic structure of an entity.
   e) includes an entity (other than a human being) declared to be an organism for the purposes of the Biosecurity Act 1993
   f) Includes a reproductive cell or developmental stage of an organism.

Related documents:

Relevant Legislation

- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.
- Biosecurity Act 1993.

Legal Compliance

- All GMOs or work involving GMOs must be approved by EPA (or duly authorised agent) prior to commencement of work as required by Part 5, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

Related Procedures

- Restricted Organisms and Biological Products Procedure
- Infectious and Pathogenic or Zoonotic Organisms Procedure