



Scottish Home and Health Department
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Secretaries of Health Boards
 Secretary, Common Services Agency

Your reference

Our reference NLZ/11/8

Date 13 April 1983

Dear Secretary

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS: CATEGORISATION OF PATHOGENS
 ACCORDING TO RISK AND CATEGORIES OF CONTAINMENT**

1. The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens was set up jointly by Health and Agriculture Ministers and the Health and Safety Commission in 1981 to advise on all classes of pathogens dangerous to humans. The Advisory Committee has submitted to Ministers and the Health and Safety Commission the above-mentioned report with the recommendation that it be the subject of wide consultation before the final version is produced.
2. Your comments on the contents of the report are sought and I enclose copies for your use.
3. The report classifies micro-organisms into four risk groups according to stated criteria. It goes on to describe in a model code of practice four physical containment levels in laboratories and animal rooms which are suitable for work with agents in each of the four risk groups. It explains that the model code of practice is intended as a basis for any more detailed guidance which may be necessary for laboratory work of a special nature eg in research, teaching or industrial establishments. As regards work places other than laboratories and animal rooms, you may wish to note that the Health and Safety Executive is preparing draft guidance on scale-up and industrial use of micro-organisms.
4. You may also wish to note that the Health and Safety Executive intends that its inspectors should take into account the final version of the report when considering whether there is compliance with the general requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
5. Comments on the report should be sent to Mr K A M McBryde, SHHD, Room 8, St Andrew's House (Extension **GRO-C**) by 10 June 1983.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

J O WASTLE

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