

## **CPP038 Biosecurity and Biosafety Policy**

### **Purpose**

Accidental transmission or release of infectious agents, controlled pests, invasive or non-native species and living modified organisms can have serious implications for people, animals, and the environment. At Cefas we are committed to upholding the highest standards in biosecurity and biosafety in all of our work. We do this through implementation of evidence-based measures which prioritise risk-based biosecurity and biosafety, while supporting our work in laboratories, aquaria and in the field both nationally and internationally.

### **Policy**

Cefas affirms the importance of biosecurity and biosafety to meet in full our obligations to protect people, animals, and the environment. We strive to set the highest standards, driving best practice in all of our work wherever it is carried out, and in meeting all national and international regulatory requirements that apply to our work.

This policy applies to all staff, students, visiting scientists, and contractors whilst working within laboratories and whilst undertaking field-based activities.

### **Application**

Cefas will ensure:

1. That all activities conducted are carried out in a manner that adheres to and promotes biosecurity and biosafety best practice and that requirements are determined by Cefas management of biosafety and biosecurity in a manner appropriate to the level of risk.
2. That the principles and practices of biosecurity and biosafety are documented, implemented, and maintained through suitable systems, practices and procedures.

3. That arrangements are in place to meet in full our obligations to all relevant statutory requirements.
4. That all individuals involved in Cefas activities that may have biosecurity and biosafety implications are competent and adequately trained and cooperate with Cefas management of biosafety and biosecurity.
5. That adequate resources are available to ensure that appropriate levels of biosecurity and biosafety measures are implemented.
6. That all staff across the agency have an awareness of the importance of biosecurity and biosafety and recognise their personal responsibility for upholding high standards of practice to protect individuals, animals and the environment in our work.
7. That we will seek to continually assess and improve biosecurity and biosafety practices so as to minimise harm to individuals, animals and the environment.
8. That all staff have a readily accessible means of raising concerns related to biosecurity and biosafety with Cefas management.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This Policy will be reviewed on annual basis or unless a need arises to undertake sooner.

### **Legislation (or Regulation)**

- Dangerous Goods – pathogens/biological material
- Animal By Products Regulations (including licence holding for import of samples, applications and adherence to licence conditions).
- Genetic Modification Work Requirements (with an understanding of the SACGM Compendium of guidance (guidance from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification).
- Schedule 5 Pathogens and Toxins (Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001)
- Nagoya Protocol (accountable named person for Cefas).
- Laboratory Containment Standards (ADCP).
- Advice pertaining to Aquatic Animal Health (England & Wales) Regulations 2009 (biosecurity measures within the establishment and related to field inspections)
- Welfare in Transport Authorisation.



I give my full backing to this policy and support those who endeavour to carry it out.

Neil Hornby  
Chief Executive