

HIGH CONTAINMENT FACILITY SECURITY AND AUDITS

C MacAuley ^{1, 2,}

¹Laboratory of Molecular Neurovirology, Baltimore Research and Education Foundation, Baltimore, MD; ² Research Service, VA Medical Center, Baltimore, MD; ³ Department of Neurology, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD

Terrorist attacks such as, September 11, 2001 and anthrax have changed the climate in the world and in the laboratory. In June 2002 the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act was signed into law. Nearly 3 years later and after much revision, the Final Rule is in effect. Not only do these regulations have to be read and understood, but they also must be put into effect and complied with. One of the biggest areas impacted has been security. Simple locks on the doors are no longer acceptable. Now we have magnetic locks, card access, cameras, motion detectors and FBI background checks for those with access to Select Agents. All of which has place huge burden, not only financially, but also emotionally on the individuals performing research and the entities that are responsible for them. Risk assessments, SOPs and policies must be written and put in place. Training must be done not only for employees assigned to the containment area but also emergency responders both within the institution and the municipalities. Documentation is mandatory. Communicating the respect and the cooperation that these regulations must be given can often be a challenge. Putting together such a program and maintaining it often requires a team of dedicated people. And then there are the inspections and audits, the USDA, CDC and OIG are a only few of the governing bodies. Cooperation from the Responsible Official (RO), to

the in house security is imperative. Being prepared at any time can be a daunting task when the rules change, the SOPs change and employees come and go. Not to mention, some of us are also trying to do some research.

