

## History of biosafety (Etiology and Epidemiology):

A significant milestone on biosafety initially referred to as “microbiological safety” dates back to 1908 where Winslow described a new method of examination to count bacteria present in the air. A survey reviewed by Meyer and Eddie in 1941 described laboratory-acquired brucellosis which also revealed that similar infections could pose a threat to non-laboratorians. Later in 1947, the NIH (national institutes of health) Building 7 had the first peacetime research laboratory especially tailored for microbiological safety. These historical landmarks and breakthroughs are just a few of the more studies which untied the importance and relevance of biosafety in healthcare and research institutions.

The principle and profession of biosafety have developed together with the history of the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA). As briefly described by the Federation of American Scientists, the first meeting was held in 1955 with the members of the military, as the focus addressed “The Role of Safety in the Biological Warfare Effort”. Succeeding meetings attendees included the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), universities, laboratories, hospitals and representatives from the industries. From then, written regulations covered the shipment of biological agents, safety training and programs, with the development of biological safety level classification. International issues on biosafety and studies on the individual or group of agents became the focus in the 1980s. At present, aside from studies focusing on specific biohazard level or pathogen, new strategies were developed to enhance risk assessment capacities, biosecurity, and biocontainment measures including the regulation of biosafety through national and international policies. Other industries such as in agriculture and biotechnology are now considering biosafety application.