



CLASSIFICATION OF INFECTIVE MICROORGANISMS BY RISK GROUP

- ◆ **RISK GROUP 1** – (low individual and community risk) - any microorganism or material containing microorganisms that is **unlikely to cause human, plant or animal disease**.
- ◆ **RISK GROUP 2** - (moderate individual risk, limited community risk) – a pathogen or material containing a pathogen that **can cause human, plant or animal disease**, but is unlikely to be a serious hazard to laboratory workers, the community, livestock, or the environment; laboratory exposures may cause infection, but effective treatment and preventive measures are available, and the risk of spread is limited. **Includes human opportunistic Pathogens**.
- ◆ **RISK GROUP 3** – (high individual risk, limited community risk) – a pathogen that usually causes serious human or animal disease and may present a serious hazard to laboratory workers. It could be present a risk if spread in the community or the environment, but there are usually effective preventive measures or treatment available.
- ◆ **RISK GROUP 4** – (high individual and community risk) – a pathogen that usually produces life-threatening human or animal disease, represents a serious hazard to laboratory workers and is readily transmissible from individual to another. Effective treatment and preventive measures are not usually available.

TYPE OF MICROORGANISM: (For Tables 3.1 – 3.10 see AS/NZS 2243.3:2002, pg 23 – 34)

- ◆ **General** – Risk groups 2- 4. Refer to Table 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9.
- ◆ **Bacteria, Chlamydiae, Rickettsiae & Microplasmas** – Mostly risk group 2 & some risk group 3. Refer to Table 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.
- ◆ **Parasites** – Risk group 2. Refer to Table 3.4.
- ◆ **Fungi** – Risk groups 1, 2 & 3. Refer to Table 3.5, 3.6.
- ◆ **Viruses** – Risk groups 2, 3 & 4. Refer to Table 3.7, 3.8, 3.9. Additional requirements for poliovirus. Refer to Appendix C.
- ◆ **Exotic animal viruses** – Only to be handled in CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory or other facilities approved by AQIS. Refer to Table 3.10.
- ◆ **Plant & fish pathogens** – Generally Risk group 1.
- ◆ **PRIONS** – Risk group 2. Refer to Table 3.7.