



The University of Texas at Tyler
Environmental Health and Safety
BIOLOGICAL AGENT REFERENCE SHEET

Characteristics	
Risk Group	1 - Agents that are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans. These agents represent no or little risk to an individual and no or little risk to the community.
Agent Type	Biohazard
Description	<p><i>Vibrio harveyi</i> are Gram-negative, motile, rod-shaped facultative anaerobes. The main interest in this organism has been its ability to communicate via quorum sensing. This organism is not known to be a human pathogen but does live either as commensals or opportunistic pathogens in other eukaryotic species.</p> <p>ref: <i>Vibrio harveyi</i>: Pretty Problems in Paradise. The Biology of Vibrios. 2006;</p>
Host Range	Invertebrates
Exposure route	Contact
Incubation period	unknown

Laboratory Hazards	
High Energy	Centrifugation, sonication, vortexing
Sharps	

Aerosols	Shaking, liquid culturing, pipetting, coughing, sneezing
Equipment	
Exposed body	Skin and mucous membranes
Notes	

Laboratory Handling Guidelines

Biosafety Level	1 - refer to Biosafety Manual; contact EH&S for a copy
Training	EH&S Biosafety Training; Lab specific training
Engineering controls	Recommended use in BSC
PPE	Eye protection, gloves and lab coat
Waste	Biohazard - put in red biohazard bins

Agent Viability

Disinfection	10% bleach; 70% ethanol
Survival outside host	unknown
Engineering controls	BSC; lids while working with high energy equipment
PPE	Eye protection, gloves, long sleeve or lab coat
Waste	Biohazard - put in red biohazard bins

Exposure and Spill procedures

Mucous membranes	Flush eyes, nose, mouth/throat for 15 minutes
Skin contact	Wash with soap and water for a minimum of 30 second for bare skin contact; for broken skin wash with soap and water for 15 minutes
Minor (small) spills	Notify all persons present in the area. Allow aerosols to settle. While wearing protective clothing, gently cover the spill with absorbent paper towel and apply appropriate disinfectant, starting at perimeter and working towards the centre. Allow sufficient contact time before clean up.
Major (large) spills	Contact EH&S immediately; after-hours contact University Police
Waste	Decontaminate all wastes before disposal by incineration, chemical disinfection or steam sterilization

References

[ref: Vibrio harveyi: Pretty Problems in Paradise. The Biology of Vibrios. 2006;](#)