BIOSECURITY AND BIOSAFETY

protection measures that aim to prevent outsidto dangerous pathogens and toxins. Biosafety refers to the use of effective procedures and processes to prevent accidental infection by or



Canada is supporting the modernization or creation of national and/or regional biosecurity & biosafety standards and guidelines. To assist in this effort, it has translated Canada's Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines and other technical documents into Russian.

Accomplishments to date

TACKLING THE BIOTERRORIST THREAT: A CANADIAN PRIORITY

Canada's GPP has developed a comprehensive strategy to confront the full spectrum of the bioterrorist threat. This strategy enhances Canada's ability to mitigate and prevent bioterrorist attacks from occurring, while also allowing Canada to prepare for, respond to, and recover from biological incidents. By pursuing a broad range of cooperative initiatives designed to prevent terrorists from acquiring biological materials, the Global Partnership represents an important pillar of the government's prevention effort and mitigation.

In response to the heightened risk of biological proliferation and terrorism, Canada's GPP devoted greater attention and resources to biological non-proliferation programming in 2006 and 2007.

Progress made in 2006-2007

BIOSECURITY AND BIOSAFETY

As underscored in the principles agreed at Kananaskis, one of the best ways to prevent a bioterrorist attack is to make it more difficult for terrorists to acquire deadly biological agents. In this regard, Canada's GPP has developed a comprehensive strategy to improve biosecurity and biosafety at facilities in the FSU. Through this strategy, Canada is assisting various FSU countries in:

- developing and implementing effective and practical biosecurity/biosafety standards and guidelines
- establishing national and/or regional biosafety associations
- developing and delivering effective biosecurity/ biosafety training
- putting in place enhanced physical security measures and equipment

It is often the people, more than the facilities or the equipment, that are central to ensuring that biosecurity and biosafety measures are effective. Canada's Biological Non-Proliferation Program targets people while also promoting enhanced physical upgrades.

Standards and Guidelines

The adoption and implementation of national biosecurity and biosafety guidelines is essential for the development of effective policies, programs and practices. Guidelines also serve as technical documents, providing information and recommendations on the design, construction and commissioning of biological containment facilities, which represent the first and best line of defence against an accidental release or deliberate theft of biological agents.