

Biological Facility Risk Assessment Methodology (BioRAM)

Fact Sheet



Description of the Tool

Legitimate bioscience facilities may be targeted as a source of biological agents that could be used in bioterrorism. The security and protection of bioscience facilities is extremely important to our nation's well-being. BioRAM is designed to help bioscience facilities achieve a risk-based, graded protection strategy for dangerous biological agents, and other assets, located at these institutions.

Features

BioRAM helps to facilitate the biosecurity risk assessment and management processes at bioscience facilities. The BioRAM process contains the following steps:

- Define bioscience facility assets
- Evaluate baseline risk of theft or sabotage
- Screen assets with insufficient baseline risk
- Incorporate motivated adversaries into assessment scenarios
- Establish adversary threat potential in each scenario
- Evaluate scenarios for biosecurity risks and establish unacceptable risk level
- Identify facility vulnerabilities associated with unacceptable risks
- Implement risk reduction measures

Applicability

In the United States, Codes of Federal Regulation have been issued to specifically address the risk of terrorists acquiring purified, virulent, and viable biological agents from legitimate bioscience facilities. These regulations require laboratories that possess dangerous pathogens to implement security measures to protect these pathogens from theft and malicious use. International efforts to control dangerous biological materials are addressed in the Biological Weapons Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 1540. BioRAM is a tool designed to support the risk assessment processes that are being required of legitimate bioscience facilities and to facilitate the implementation of appropriate controls to secure dangerous biological agents in a manner that is consistent with the assessed level of risk.

Availability

Sandia controls the distribution of BioRAM.



Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company, for the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL8500

