

**WAC 296-800-11045 Protect employees from biological agents. (1)**

You must protect employees from exposure to hazardous concentrations of biological agents that may result from processing, handling or using materials or waste.

**Note:** Potential exposure to biological agents occurs during cleanup, or other tasks, where employees handle:

- Animals or animal waste
- Body fluids
- Biological agents in a medical research lab
- Mold or mildew

Check The Center of Disease Control web site ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) to find published guidelines and information on safe handling and protection from specific biological agents (examples: Hanta virus, TB).

(2) You must warn employees of biohazards.

(3) You must use signs, tags, or labels to identify:

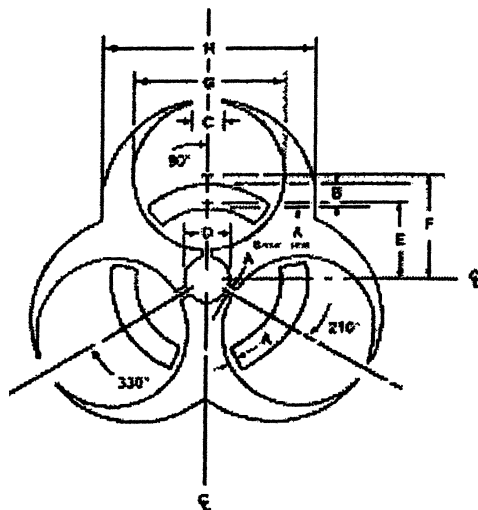
(a) The actual or potential presence of a biohazard; and

(b) Equipment, containers, rooms, materials, experimental animals, or any combinations of these that contain viable hazardous agents.

**Definition:**

**Biohazard** means those infectious agents presenting a risk or potential risk of death, injury or illness to employees.

You must make sure the sign, tag, or label includes the biohazard symbol that is designed and proportioned in the illustration that follows.



Dimension	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Units	1	3½	4	6	11	16	21	30

You must make sure that there is sufficient contrast for the symbol to be clearly defined, if the sign, tag, or label has a background color.

**Reference:** Additional requirements for biohazard signs, tags, and labels may apply. See WAC 296-823-14025 and 296-823-18040 of the *Bloodborne Pathogens* book.

- Note:**
- It's recommended that the sign, tag, or label have a key color of fluorescent orange or orange-red and lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.
  - Appropriate wording may be used in association with the symbol to indicate:
    - The nature or identity of the hazard;
    - Name of individual responsible for its control;
    - Precautionary information;
  - OR
  - Other information.
  - This information should not be written on the symbol.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 18-22-116, § 296-800-11045, filed 11/6/18, effective 12/7/18; WSR 04-18-080, § 296-800-11045, filed 8/31/04, effective

11/1/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, [49.17].040, and [49.17].050. WSR 02-16-047, § 296-800-11045, filed 8/1/02, effective 10/1/02.]