

Strategic Integration of Laboratory Operations, Risk, Emergency Preparedness, and Business Continuity for Facilities in Canada

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This workshop examines the integration of laboratory operations, risk management, emergency preparedness, and business continuity planning within Canadian research, healthcare, and diagnostic laboratory environments. The session is designed to support licensed facilities in strengthening operational resilience through coordinated planning, proactive risk management, and practical governance strategies aligned with evolving biosafety and biosecurity expectations.

Presented through a Canadian regulatory and operational perspective, the workshop will explore practical considerations for aligning institutional operations with biosafety and biosecurity obligations applicable to licensed facilities. Participants will examine how operational planning, emergency management, and organizational governance can work together to support safe, secure, and resilient laboratory environments.

The session will also address emerging considerations related to Security Sensitive Biological Agents (SSBAs), including institutional readiness for evolving regulatory requirements and potential program expansion in Canada. Key topics will include foundational biosecurity planning approaches, personnel reliability and training, access control systems, inventory accountability, and organizational preparedness for work involving higher-risk biological materials,

Key Objectives

- Explore the role of enterprise risk management in supporting resilient and compliant laboratory operations;
- Review approaches for developing and maintaining institutional biosecurity plans;
- Examine considerations for pathogen accountability, inventory management, and access control;
- Discuss threat and risk assessment methodologies applicable to laboratory and research environments;
- Identify strategies for emergency preparedness and incident response planning;
- Explore business continuity considerations supporting critical laboratory and research functions;
- Promote coordination between biosafety, facilities management, laboratory operations, and institutional leadership in resilience planning.

Through presentations and collaborative discussion, participants will gain practical insight into how Canadian institutions are addressing operational risk, regulatory expectations, and continuity planning while maintaining safe and secure laboratory operations. The workshop will also explore lessons learned from recent public health and operational disruptions, including approaches for strengthening institutional readiness across academic, healthcare, government, and private-sector laboratory settings.

Designed for professionals responsible for laboratory operations, safety, security, and compliance, this workshop delivers practical, Canada-focused tools and forward-looking insights to support a resilient, compliant, and well-prepared laboratory environment aligned with Canadian standards and regulatory expectations.