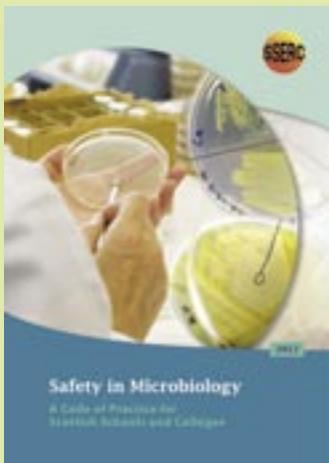


Health & Safety

Third editions of Codes of Practice published

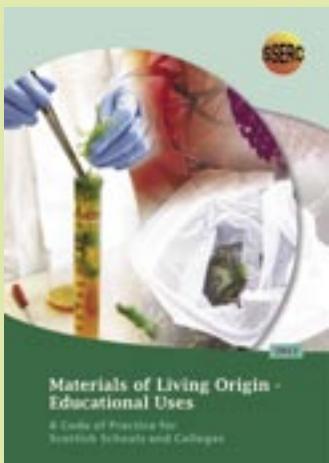
Safety in Microbiology



Since working with micro-organisms is covered by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations, it is necessary to have suitable and sufficient control measures in place which have been developed as a result of assessing the risks involved. In the late 1980s, the then Strathclyde Regional Council published

the original edition of the Code of Practice in Safety in Microbiology to support the implementation of the biotechnology content of the recently introduced Standard Grade Biology. The Code of Practice also addressed COSHH legislation that was first enacted in 1988.

Materials of Living Origin - Educational Uses



The 1st edition of Materials of Living Origin was also published by Strathclyde Regional Council. Along with the belief that the use of material of living origin in schools can considerably enhance children's educational experience, there was and remains a strong conviction that for any educational application of living materials to

be justifiable, it has to bring with it strong and positive educational benefits. The 3rd edition, as with previous editions, therefore introduces each section of the Code of Practice with an educational rationale and, where appropriate, includes the social relevance of such activities.

Both of the original Codes of Practice were the result of the deliberations of working groups convened by Strathclyde Regional Council. The members of the working groups included practising teachers and Education Officers from Strathclyde Regional Council, representatives from Further and Higher Education and John Richardson, who was Executive Director of SSERC at that time. Where practical activities in microbiology or using materials of living origin fall within the relevant Code of Practice, no additional risk assessment is required. Work that falls outwith the Codes of Practice must be accompanied by a risk assessment.

SSERC would like to acknowledge the contribution of Jim Stafford who has played a key role in updating both the Code of Practice in Safety in Microbiology and the Code of Practice in Materials of Living Origin - Educational Uses. Jim chaired the working groups that produced the original Codes of Practice and these current editions stem from the original publications. These 3rd editions of the Codes of Practice also highlight the relationship between good science practice and CfE.

Both the Code of Practice for Safety in Microbiology and the Code of Practice for Materials of Living Origin - Educational Uses are available through the SSERC website (www.sserc.org.uk). Watch out for hard copies coming into school during the autumn term. ▶

