

EHS Director's Roundtable Poll
**Independent, Third Party Commissioning
of Biosafety-3 Laboratories**
29-30 March 2005

Do you now, or do you plan to in the future, use an independent third party to commission your new Biosafety 3 Laboratories (BSL-3)?

Yes—all BSL-3s	=	65%
No	=	15%
Sometimes	=	20%
<i>n</i>	=	20

Comments from Universities that use independent third parties to commission your new Biosafety 3 Laboratories:

“My decision was based on the desire to have a review by another expert to see if we were missing anything and to be able to say it was ‘independently’ verified.”

“We pushed hard for a third party commissioning because we had a hard time convincing our facilities folks about some of the features that needed to be in place. A third party was one way to validate our recommendations and also assure our facilities folks that EH&S was not interested in driving up costs but in ensuring smooth and safe operations. We will recommend a third party commissioning again.”

“We think an experienced consultant is better equipped and more knowledgeable since we only do this work sporadically.”

“Our architect and our university both hired an independent commissioning agent. The CDC is requiring us to submit the commissioning report prior to lab approval.”

“Our intent is to have a commissioning agent on board as early as 15% DD, and to provide periodic reports to the university IBC regarding the commissioning process.”

“Our NIAID/NIH grant requires third party commissioning.”

“Commissioning of building systems is done by third party. This is followed up with third party certification of BSL3 labs.”

“We are doing ours by 3rd party in two phases. One phase for the physical facility itself, the second phase for the protocols.”

“CDC asked for our commissioning report. We declined, but did provide a letter from the commissioning agent. That satisfied them.”

“We use external commissioning/certification especially for liability reasons. In the future we will involve them in the design process.”

Comments from Universities that do not use independent third parties to commission your new Biosafety 3 Laboratories:

“We have a good deal of experience. If someone was just getting into this area it would seem more likely to have an outside expert as a check. On the other hand my associate EHS Director told me that if you can't do it yourself it is time to hire a new biosafety officer.”

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