FACT SHEET

Upcoming Changes to Federal Policies

Recent updates to federal policies include significant changes that may impact research at UConn

Policy:	USG Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential	
Date Effective:	*May 6, 2025**	
Summary:	– Unifies current USG DURC Policies with P3CO Policy. – Expands scope of projects covered. – Defines two categories of research subject to oversight.	
	Category 1 – Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) 1. Use of any Biological Select Agents and Toxins (BSAT) or subset of RG3 pathogens – Appendix B of NIH Guidelines AND 2. Results in one of nine experimental outcomes *e.g. increase transmissibility, virulence, toxicity*	**Category 2 – Pathogens with Pandemic Potential (PEPP)** 1. Is reasonably anticipated to result in PPP or PEPP 2. Results in one of four experimental outcomes *e.g. enhance transmissibility, virulence, immune evasion* *Note: Requires IRE, Federal Funding Agency & Department Level review and approval.*
Responsibilities:	**Principal Investigators** 1. Initial Assessment (use UConn PI Self-Assessment Tool) 2. Notifications to IRE and Federal Funding Agency 3. Risk-Benefit Assessment 4. Risk Mitigation Plan – collaborate with IRE 5. Ongoing assessments and evaluation of research	**Institutions** 1. Establish Institutional Review Entity (IRE) 2. Designate ICDUR – Institutional Contact, Resource 3. Review completed Self-Assessment forms 4. Notify Federal Funding Agency 5. Risk-Benefit Assessment – collaborate with PI 6. Risk Mitigation Plan – collaborate with PI
Federal Funding Agencies will implement this policy separately. Changes to grants and contracts language and requirements are likely.		
Resources:	USG Policy for Oversight of DURC and PEPP Implementation Guidance for DURC & PEPP **UConn PI Self-Assessment Tool Coming Soon!**	Near-Horizon DURC and PEPP Oversight Framework DURC and PEPP FAQs

Policy:	Framework for Nucleic Acid Synthesis Screening
Date Effective:	*April 26, 2025** *Additional Revisions Effective October 13, 2026*
Summary:	– Directs Providers and Manufacturers to screen synthetic nucleic acids and benchtop nucleic acid synthesis equipment for Sequences of Concern (SOC) – Must identify SOC, and assess customer legitimacy – SOC defined as *"nucleotide sequence or its corresponding amino acid sequence that is a Best Match to a sequence of federally regulated agents (i.e., BSAT or CCL)**"* – Should not impact institution significantly – Providers and Manufacturers already have similar screening in place – PIs should be aware of this policy to ensure vendors adhere to framework – *Changes to grants and contracts language and requirements are likely* ***exempts sequences also found in unregulated organism or toxin*
Resources:	S3: Science Safety Security – Reference Material

**At this time, NIH announced intent to implement the new policy for Oversight of DURC and PEPP. Institutions are awaiting notices from other federal funding agencies. NIH stated that additional guidance would follow and are still pending release.*