

## Risk Assessment – Sheep Blood

### **Background**

Blood is a bodily fluid that delivers nutrients and oxygen to cells while also transporting waste products away from these cells. Human and animal blood are similar, but are not the same, and so animal blood cannot be used for example, for blood transfusions with humans. Sheep blood, is blood that is collected from a sheep. The blood can come untreated or defibrinated.

### **Risk considerations**

Sheep blood contains material of animal origin and should be handled as a potential carrier and transmitter of disease. Handle under at least Biosafety Level 1 containment.

### **Exposure risk**

Precaution is required for handling sheep blood that has been unscreened. The main route of infection and disease transmission is via a sharps injury, or skin or eye contact. Good laboratory practice should be followed when handling sheep blood. This includes wearing a laboratory coat, goggles, and protective gloves. Hands should also be washed with antibacterial soap after use. Proper disinfection and disposal will prevent any accidental external exposure.

### **Decontamination/disposal procedure**

Sheep blood and contaminated waste must be disposed of into designated biohazard waste containers. All waste and unused material should be autoclaved for at least 30 minutes.

### **Summary**

Sheep blood (both screened and unscreened) should be handled with caution and with the same biosafety considerations for blood known to carry HIV or other infectious diseases.

### **Tentative assessment**

Biosafety Level 1