

## List of examples of situations covered and not covered by the definition of biological hazards included in the proposed Convention and Recommendation

The following list provides examples of situations that could potentially fall within or outside the scope of Article 1(a) of the proposed Convention and the corresponding provisions of the Recommendation. This list is intended solely for illustrative purposes in response to questions received from participants in the informal consultations to demonstrate possible applications of the current proposed definition and has not undergone legal analysis. As such, it reflects the Office's best technical understanding of coverage under existing and proposed ILO occupational safety and health (OSH) instruments but is not intended as a legally binding interpretation or as an exhaustive reference.

Examples of situations	Covered by other Conventions	Covered by the Proposed Convention
Worker bitten by a venomous snake or arthropod (spider) in the working environment	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <sup>1</sup> covers the effect of the venom. <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture, <b>C176</b> in mining, and <b>C167</b> in construction.	No, unless the bite transmits an infection.
Worker bitten by a dog or other animal in the working environment	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture, <b>C176</b> in mining, and <b>C167</b> in construction.	No, unless the bite transmits an infection.
Agricultural worker contracts tetanus from a cutting device	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture	Yes, as it is a toxin derived from a microorganism covered in 1(a).
A farm worker gets injured by an animal (kicked by a horse for example)	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.	No, unless the injury transmits an infection (from contaminated soil for example).

<sup>1</sup> "Article 1, 4. This Convention does not apply to organisms, but does apply to chemicals derived from organisms." Chemicals are defined in Article 2: "For the purposes of this Convention: (a) the term *chemicals* means chemical elements and compounds, and mixtures thereof, whether natural or synthetic".

Examples of situations	Covered by other Conventions	Covered by the Proposed Convention
	<b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture	
A hotel worker gets bitten by bed bugs	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.	No (bed bugs suck blood but don't transmit infections).
An agricultural worker in Latin America gets bitten by triatomine bugs infected with <i>T. cruzi</i> parasites and develops Chagas' disease	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture	Yes.
Explosions and associated fires in flour, sugar, spice, and other food processing and woodworking facilities	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>C174</b> could apply under certain conditions	No.
A worker develops Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS) from Nicotine exposure handling tobacco leaves	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture  <b>R194 Open items</b>	No.
Workers in a biogas facility suffer asphyxiation from gases generated in the process.	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>C174</b> could apply under certain conditions	No.
<b>Conditions included in Recommendation N. 194</b>		
<b>1.3. Biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases</b>		
Infectious diseases such as brucellosis, viral hepatitis, human immunodeficiency virus disease, tetanus, tuberculosis, anthrax and leptospirosis (including health effects secondary to acute or chronic infection, such as liver disease -including cancer- secondary to viral hepatitis, and their sequelae), but also others not included in the ILO	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable	Yes.

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list such as dengue or malaria if exposed in the working environment or parasitic diseases like teniasis or amebiasis)		
1.3.6 Toxic or inflammatory syndromes associated with bacterial or fungal contaminants (Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome and Humidifier Syndrome)	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.	Yes, when caused by bacterial or fungal contaminants.
1.3.9. Diseases caused by other biological agents at work not mentioned in the preceding items where a direct link is established between the exposure to these biological agents arising from work activities and the disease(s) contracted by the worker	<b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.	Yes, as long as the agents fall within the definition in 1(a).
<b>2.1. Respiratory diseases</b>		
2.1.6. Byssinosis (cotton dust),	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture	Not clear. Cotton dust is not a microorganism, but bacterial endotoxins contaminating the dust may have a causative role in the disease.  Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
2.1.6. Bagassosis (flax, hemp, sisal or sugarcane dust)	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions:</b> <b>C184</b> in agriculture	Yes, caused by inhalation of thermophilic actinomycetes, which are microorganisms that proliferate in mouldy bagasse (sugarcane residue).  Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
2.1.7. Asthma caused by recognized sensitizing agents or irritants inherent to the work process	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable	Not covered unless the agent originates from a biological hazard as defined in Article 1(a). Plant proteins generally fall outside the current scope.

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		Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
2.1.8. Extrinsic allergic alveolitis caused by the inhalation of organic dusts or microbially contaminated aerosols, arising from work activities (Farmer's lung, etc.)	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable	Most types covered (except when the antigen is an animal or plant protein and not microbiological in origin).  Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
2.1.9. COPD from organic/agricultural dust	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable ( <b>C184</b> in agriculture)	Not covered unless due to exposure of microbially contaminated aerosols.  Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
2.1.11. Upper airways disorders caused by recognized sensitizing agents or irritants inherent in the work process	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable	Not covered unless the sensitizer originates from a biological hazard as defined in Article 1(a). Plant proteins generally fall outside the current scope.  Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
<b>2.2. Skin diseases</b>		
2.2.1. Allergic contact dermatoses and contact urticaria caused by other recognized allergy- provoking agents arising from work activities not included in other items	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations. <b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.  <b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable	Not covered unless the allergen originates from a biological hazard as defined in Article 1(a). Plant proteins generally fall outside the current scope.  Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
2.2.2. Irritant contact dermatoses caused by other recognized irritant agents	<b>C170 (art 1(4))</b> <b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations.	Not covered unless due to irritants from (microbiological) hazards in Article 1(a).

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arising from work activities not included in other items	<p><b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.</p> <p><b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable</p>	Not listed under section 1.3. diseases caused by biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases in R194.
Other diseases [respiratory (2.1.12.), skin (2.2.4), musculoskeletal (2.3.8), mental or behavioural (2.4.2), cancer (3.1.21), others (4.2.)] where a direct link is established between the exposure to risk factors arising from work activities and the disease(s) contracted by the worker	<p><b>C155</b> covers general OSH obligations.</p> <p><b>C121</b> if recognized nationally.</p> <p><b>OSH Sectoral Conventions</b> where applicable</p>	Only if the causative factors fall within the definition in 1(a). For instance, long Covid in a health care worker, toxic shock syndrome caused by <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> in wound care work, neuropsychiatric effects following viral encephalitis contracted through work in animal care, lab or health care, myositis or arthralgia associated with Lyme disease acquired occupationally (e.g. forestry, field work).