

OSHA Regulatory Definitions

These are OSHA regulatory definitions used in the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

Contamination

Contamination refers to anything soiled with Human Blood, OPIM, or BBP's.

Decontamination

Decontamination refers to making surfaces and equipment safe for being handled or used, and disposed of by removing, inactivating, and destroying the infectious material.

Human Blood

Human Blood is any product made from human blood and blood components.

Occupational Exposure

Occupational Exposure is reasonably anticipated contact (e.g., skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact) with human blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's job duties.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM)

OPIM are any other fluids that could be potentially contaminated. OPIM includes:

- Unfixed human tissue or organs
- Cells, tissues, or organ cultures containing HIV, HBV, or HCV
- Culture medium containing HIV, HBV, or HCV
- Animal specimens (blood, organs, etc.) with HIV, HBV, HCV, or other BBP
- Untested human body fluids that potentially contain blood

Other examples: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, and amniotic fluid.

Universal Precautions

Universal Precautions is the premise that all human blood, blood products, and body fluids are affected by BBP contamination. You should always handle materials using the appropriate controls and precautions.