The Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act was passed in 1996 and built upon the Biological Weapons Anti-terrorism Act (1989) and other earlier anti-terrorism legislation. The legislation directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and maintain a list of biological agents that could pose a threat to the public's health and to regulate the transfer of such agents while maintaining the availability of select agents for research, education, and other legitimate purposes. The CDC developed a list of 31 infectious agents and 12 biological toxins with additional provisions for recombinant organisms and drug resistant organisms and exemptions for research quantities and vaccine strains of organisms in response to the legislation. The list of organisms provided below is referred to as the select agent list.

The CDC has developed regulations on the transfer and transport of select agents. Facilities receiving select agents must also be registered with the federal government, ensuring the facilities fulfill the proper biosafety level requirements for handling, containment, and disposal, and that a person at the facility be responsible for the oversight of the transfer of such agents.

Any Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi research working with or storing select agents must follow all applicable federal regulations.

Recent regulations also require that persons working with select agents or having access to laboratories where select agents used or stored, attest to the fact that they are not 'restricted persons' by submitting Form 961 with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Texas A&M – Corpus Christi does not currently engage in research with select agents. Please contact the Research Compliance Officer if you are planning to conduct a study involving select agents and allow additional review time for registration procedures.

Records Retention
All research related records must be maintained for at least 3 years after the project expiration.

- List of select agents: http://www.selectagents.gov/
- Primary containment for biohazards: http://www.cdc.gov/biosafety/
- Select Agent Guidelines: http://www.selectagents.gov/