

Coble, Ryan

From: Slobodin, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 10:48 AM
To: Barblan, Jennifer; Coble, Ryan
Subject: FW: Federal select agents - Follow-up questions

Another document exhibit. FDA states that the cold storage room did not have any accountable government property stored so no inventory control done.

From: Scott, Meghan [<mailto:Meghan.Scott@fda.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 10:03 AM
To: Slobodin, Alan
Cc: Koplow, Bret
Subject: RE: Federal select agents - Follow-up questions

Hello Alan,

Please see the answers to your questions re: select agents below. Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best,
Meghan

1. **What is custodial area?** "Custodial area" refers to an area in which an employee designated as a property custodian is responsible for tracking accountable government property. Accountable property is defined as computers and all pieces of equipment with a value of more than \$5,000.

Is that a defined area for inventory control?

Inventory control is defined by the nature of the equipment within the area. If an area does not have accountable government property as defined above, then the area would not be under inventory control.

What rooms were covered by Custodial Area 3981?

29A Rooms 1C-15, 1C-16, 1C-17, 1C-18, 1C-20, 3C-05

2. **What custodial area covered Room 3C16 (the cold storage room)?** The cold storage room, 3C16, is not part of a custodial area since there was not any accountable government property stored in this space.

Who was the property custodian for that custodial area, and what were her/his responsibilities?

No one, for the reasons described above. There was a Point of Contact who had limited responsibilities with respect to the cold room. These limited responsibilities did not include maintaining an inventory of the contents of the cold room.

3. **Which FDA researchers were using the cold storage room?** Researchers from the FDA's Laboratory of DNA Viruses and Laboratory of Retroviral Research were using the cold storage room.
4. **Which researchers/personnel were responsible for taking inventory of their specimens in the cold storage room?** Each PI who used the cold storage room was responsible for taking inventory of his or her own specimens. At the time, FDA did not have a centralized SOP describing a more comprehensive inventory of cold storage rooms. As of September 30, 2014, a new SOP has been implemented by FDA that requires the following:
 - 1) identification of a lead user who is responsible for an annual inventory of all material stored in the area, and
 - 2) all materials stored individually, in boxes, or in other containers in common cold storage areas must be

appropriately and prominently labeled on the exterior surface with the name of the individual responsible for the contents, an identifier of the contents, and date.

5. **Which labs (room numbers) were permitted access and storage of items in the cold storage room (3C16)?**
Any of the labs on the 3rd floor C corridor would have been permitted to access and store materials in the cold storage room 3C16.
6. **Were there issues with storage capacity of the cold storage room? Were there requests to get more storage?** We are unaware of any requests for additional storage capacity, so we are unaware of any issues with storage capacity.

From: Slobodin, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Slobodin@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2014 9:40 AM

To: Scott, Meghan

Cc: Koplou, Bret

Subject: Federal select agents - Follow-up questions

Meghan,

This is a request I had pending with Bret. He may have already started making inquiries with CBER.

On September 19, 2014, Committee staff conducted a site visit of the cold storage room of the former FDA lab on the NIH campus where the vials of smallpox and other pathogens were found in July. During the site visit, I asked for follow-up information about the meaning of certain posted signs. In particular, there was a sign that listed a property custodian (Amita Patel) for Custodial Area 3981. There was also a sign that listed a PCO (Melissa Dixon) for rooms 3C22 and 3C24.

1. What is a custodial area? Is that a defined area for inventory control? What rooms were covered by Custodial Area 3981?
2. What custodial area covered Room 3C16 (the cold storage room)? Who was the property custodian for that custodial area, and what were her/his responsibilities?

Other follow-up questions:

3. Which FDA researchers were using the cold storage room?
4. Which researchers/personnel were responsible for taking inventory of their specimens in the cold storage room?
5. Which labs (room numbers) were permitted access and storage of items in the cold storage room (3C16)?
6. Were there issues with storage capacity of the cold storage room? Were there requests to get more storage?

Your assistance with this request is appreciated.

Thanks,

Alan