Humanized mice is a general term that refers to immunodeficient mice that are engrafted with human cells, tissues, or organs, which closely replicates human physiologic, cellular, and immune system functions. For the purpose of this guideline, humanized mice will refer specifically to immunodeficient mice engrafted with a human immune system.

Due to the use of human derived substances used in modeling a human immune system, these mice are permissive to bloodborne pathogens (BBP), which are microorganisms that are potentially infectious and can cause disease in humans. Due to the potential BBP exposure, humanized mice will be housed at Animal Biosafety Level 1 with BBP precautions. In addition to the current ABSL1 practices, these precautions require proper disposal of sharps, practices to minimize exposures (ex: wearing two layers of gloves, handling mice with forceps when possible), and a protocol for dealing with potential exposures. This is due to the fact that the highest risk for exposure would be through a needle stick, animal bite, or scratch. Cages housed in the current ABSL1 facilities must be tagged with a humanized mouse cage card.

Humanized mice administered a biohazardous or infectious agent will be housed at the ABSL determined by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).