



University of Michigan Policy On Review for Scientific Merit of Categories 7, 8, and 9

Background

The University of Michigan defines Use Categories 7, 8, and 9 as those procedures in which “animals might experience pain, discomfort or distress for which anesthetics, analgesics, or tranquilizers would customarily be given, but these drugs cannot be used because their use would adversely affect the experimental results or interpretation or are unavailable.” The criteria for establishment of scientific merit for animals in Use Categories 7, 8, and 9 (USDA Category E) are described below.

Scientific Merit Can Be Established By External Review

Several different pathways may be used. Regardless of the pathway, procedures related to Use Categories 7,8, and 9 must be clearly described in the documentation that was submitted for external review. If the procedures are not clearly described, an internal review may be necessary.

- A. These experiments are described and funded by an external peer reviewed agency.
- B. These experiments have not been funded, but have ranked in the top 50th percentile, after review from an external peer reviewed agency. This includes any grant application that received a priority score from an NIH review, even if the percentile is slightly less than the 50th.
- C. *Scientific merit can be established by a "Statement of Assurance" from an external, for profit organization (usually a "contract")*. The Statement of Assurance should discuss the strong scientific merit of the proposed protocols, and the necessity for animals in these use categories.

Scientific Merit for Projects Can Be Established By Internal Reviews

Animal use applications which are funded by departmental or other internal funds must be accompanied by a letter from the Department Chair or designee that describes what materials were reviewed for determination of scientific merit and what aspects of the proposed experiments justify the use of animals in Use Categories 7, 8, or 9. This letter might also address some of the issues listed in the document, [Guidelines for Unit Heads in Assuring Scientific or Instructional Merit in Proposals for Animal Use in Research or Teaching](#). Alternatively, in lieu of a letter from the Department Chair, written reviews of the proposed work from OVPR, BMRC, the Phoenix Project, the Rackham Graduate School, etc. can be appended.