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Call for biohazard legislation

SIR—Although Brian Ford (*Nature* August 2) refers to various Acts of Parliament, he makes no mention of the Safety and Health at Work etc. Act which received the Royal Assent on July 31. Clauses 2(2)(b) and 3(1) of the Act place a general duty on employers to protect both their workers and other persons from risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances; and under Clauses 15 and 16, the Secretary of State may make Regulations, or the Health and Safety Commission may prepare and issue Codes of Practice (or approve Codes of Practice prepared by others) for any of the general purposes of the Act. I would therefore suggest that no further legislation is necessary and that the way is clear for agreed Codes of Practice to be promulgated to deal with the different groups of organisms, as Brian Ford suggests.

Yours faithfully,

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