

CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA FOR RESEARCH PROJECT REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS

reviewed by Human Research Ethics Committee,
University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce

RESEARCH PROJECTS ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION REVIEW

Research projects entitled to exemption review are the research projects which carry no risk-, or only minimal risk to participants; or research projects where data collection is untraceable to individual participants, reporting only aggregated information. The research projects which are entitled to exemption review are as follows:

1. Educational Research, which must be conducted by certified educational institutions involving normal teaching and learning processes and new educational strategies aligned with the institutional policies such as research relating to new approaches that may compare marks or proficiencies of all students in the same class year in a subject which adjusts teaching approach, course evaluation, or educational quality assurance. The collected data of the research must be untraceable to individual participants and the results must report only the overall findings
2. Applied Research, which involves cognitive, aptitude, and achievement evaluation methodologies
3. Opinion Survey Research, which is conducted on a broad scale through Surveys Research, Interviews, or Behavioral Observations
4. Food Quality and Taste Testing Research and Consumer Acceptance. The tested food must not contain any adulterant but only natural substances. In case that the tested food contains adulterants, nutrients, and chemicals from agricultural or environmental sources, quantity of the adulterants, nutrients, and chemicals must not exceed the quantity indicated as harmful or safety limits set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
5. Research which assesses quality, and overall consumer satisfaction of a product/ consumer goods such as soap, detergent, dishwashing liquid, and shampoo. The tested product must meet safety standards established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI)
6. Non-Human Subject Research. Testing tools or equipment without involving human participants
7. Research of other categories whose scope and methodology are as follows:
 - 1) Data collection and data statistics in which the data does not relate to or indicate any individual
 - 2) Research procedures and results which do not expose any participant/volunteer or individual being arrested, fined, charged according to the laws; or received criminal and civil punishment; or lost opportunities for occupation, money, employment, further education, and their reputation

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- 3) Research which repeats analysis for published findings or employs secondary data or public data about human subjects in which the data used is without traceable personal information
- 4) Research in strategic policy conducted under an agreement and approval of an institute to explore new strategies for reorganization, enhance work proficiency, and elevate the institute to international standards without violating personal information and laws.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ENTITLED TO EXPEDITED REVIEW

Research projects which are entitled to expedited review are the research projects whose processes carry low risk to participants, or only minimal risk; or research projects which pose a risk to violate privacy and may disclose participant’s confidential data, but with appropriate protective measures implemented by the researcher. The research projects which are entitled to expedited review are as follows:

- 1. Research projects with methodologies pose a low risk or minimal risk to volunteers

- 2. Research projects which pose a risk to violate privacy and may disclose participant/ volunteer’s confidential data, but with appropriate protective measures implemented by the researcher
- 3. Research projects which involve individual or group behavior, survey, interview-based, history taking, focus group, and quality assurance, where questions pertain primarily to human subjects
- 4. Research projects which involve data, records, documents, and specimens collected for non-research purposes such as medical diagnosis or treatment; research projects which involve interviews or questionnaires, and the collected data is not confidential or sensitive topics such as sexual orientation, domestic violence,

- 2. Research projects which pose a risk to violate privacy and may disclose participant/ volunteer’s confidential data, but with appropriate protective measures implemented by the researcher
- 3. Research projects which involve individual or group behavior, survey, interview-based, history taking, focus group, and quality assurance, where questions pertain primarily to human subjects
- 4. Research projects which involve data, records, documents, and specimens collected for non-research purposes such as medical diagnosis or treatment; research projects which involve interviews or questionnaires, and the collected data is not confidential or sensitive topics such as sexual orientation, domestic violence,

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illegal behavior, defiance of community belief, etc. The collected data must not damage the individual status or benefits nor transgress sensitivity of the involved community

5. Research projects which collect the secondary data including documents, audio and/or video recordings, or images that have been already use publicly

6. Research projects involving low-risk tools and with clear and standardized applications

7. Research projects already certified with an ethics approval, where the researcher wants to submit a minor change that does not increase any risk to participants/volunteers, but there is no change

the methodology, as well as participants/volunteers' inclusion/exclusion criteria

8. Research projects undergoing continued review, that is, the research projects have been approval through expedited review or with the progress review which do not enroll any new participant/volunteer and the interventions remain unchanged completely without any increased risk

RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT MUST BE APPROVED BY FULL BOARD REVIEW

Research projects that the Research Ethics Committee will consider for Full Board Review are the projects which collect data or experiment with vulnerable individuals; involving physical examinations, blood tests, or specimen collection that may result in physical injury; relating to sensitive social issues such as sexuality, violence, human trafficking, prostitution, drug, religion, culture, political view deeply affecting mentality, livelihood, economy, and society. The research projects which must be approved by Full Board Review are as follows:

1. Research projects which conduct with groups requiring heightened protection and conducting an experiment with children, individuals, students in the school, and vulnerable groups

2. Research projects which involve sensitive issues such as sexuality, violence, human trafficking, prostitution, drug use, religion, cultural issues, political views with profound mentality or psychological impacts

3. Research projects where participants/volunteers are at risk of prosecution such as drug users, sex workers, prisoners

4. Research projects which involve physical examinations, blood tests, or specimen collection that may cause physical injury

5. Experimental or quasi-experimental research projects, operations research, or complex designs in research