

Animal Care and Use Program Policy

Certification of Animal Transfer Stations and Biologic Safety Cabinets

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SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all animal transfer stations (ATS) and Biologic Safety Cabinets (BSC) in which animal work is conducted on the Central and Waterfront Campus (CWC) and West Campus (WC). This policy does not address the use of chemical fume hoods for which information is provided by contacting Research Safety Program/EHRS.

POLICY

- I. Servicing and Certification
 - A. Responsibility for servicing of an ATS or BSC lies with the Division/Department or laboratory that owns the equipment.
 - B. Biologic Safety Cabinets are to be serviced upon installation and then annually, and when moved from one location to another as required in Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (5th edition). Animal transfer stations should be serviced triennially or at intervals according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
 - C. If an ATS or BSC fails the certification test and is deemed by the service company to not meet standard, it will be removed from use until repairs are made and it passes all testing.

DEFINITIONS

Animal Transfer Station (ATS) – An open-front or open-front/back containment cabinet used typically to transfer rodents from one cage to another. Animal transfer stations characteristically are designed with HEPA filtration and a laminar air flow system to provide protection for work with Biosafety Level 1 (low risk) agents.

Biologic Safety Cabinet (BSC) – A ventilated cabinet which uses a variety of combinations of HEPA filtration, laminar air flow, and containment to provide personnel, product, or environmental protection against particulates or aerosols from biohazardous agents. A BSC is distinguished from a chemical fume hood by the presence of HEPA filtration and the laminar nature of the air flow. Chemical fume hoods are acceptable when using BSL 1 and 2 agents, and may be acceptable for BSL 3 agents when other engineering controls are in place.

AUTHORITY

Guide, pp. 148-149

Facility features applicable to all hazards include isolation of the animals and their waste, provision of sealed monolithic room surfaces that do not promote dust accumulation and are easy to sanitize, increased air exchange rates to dilute environmental contamination if it occurs, air pressure differentials to ensure that areas containing hazards have negative pressure with respect to surrounding areas, specialized housing systems, if available, and appropriate safety equipment such as a biologic safety cabinet or chemical hood (CDC and NIH 2007). A number of references are available to provide an overview of the issues related to hazardous material containment (Frazier and Talka 2005; Lehner et al. 2008; Lieberman 1995; NRC 1989, 1995).

REFERENCES

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition, 2011

Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL), 5th edition, 2009