

**TITLE: WORKING WITHIN A LAMINAR FLOW CABINET**

**PAGE 1 OF 3**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This SOP describes the procedures for working within a laminar flow cabinet.

**2. Responsibility**

- 2.1 Authorized research personnel and staff working with rodents within a laminar flow cabinet.

**3. Materials**

- 3.1 Laminar Flow Cabinet
- 3.2 Disposable gown
- 3.3 Gloves
- 3.4 Mask
- 3.5 Bonnet
- 3.6 Shoe covers
- 3.7 Sleeve protectors
- 3.8 Peroxygard solution 1:14
- 3.9 Paper towels and rags

**4. Entry and Cabinet Disinfection Procedures**

- 4.1 Upon entering the animal room, observe the red line on the floor. You may not step across these lines without first putting on shoe covers. The area within the red line closest to the door is considered dirty compare to the area outside of this designated zone. Put the shoe covers on as you step across the red line. Shoe-covered feet may not touch the floor on the door side (dirty side) of the red line unless you are leaving the area.
- 4.2 Put on a hair bonnet, ensuring that **all hair** is contained within.
- 4.3 Put on a mask (must cover your nose and mouth), gloves, sleeve protectors, and a disposable gown.
- 4.4 Shoe covers and gowns **must not** be worn inside out.

- 4.5 Spray gloved hands and sleeves thoroughly with the Peroxygard 1:14 solution.
- 4.6 Proceed to disinfect the laminar flow hood by spraying down all exposed surfaces EXCEPT the grill (usually located at the back of the cabinet). This grill must be wiped off with a paper towel or a rag sprayed with Peroxygard.
- 4.7 Items in the cabinet such as cages containing rodent chow or water bottles should be sprayed with Peroxygard, but they don't need to be moved to disinfect under them if they won't be moved while you work in the hood. Do not spray the filter tops.
- 4.8 Once the cabinet has been disinfected, you may proceed with bringing in equipment.

## **5. Cage Changing**

- 5.1 Remove the filter top by tilting it up from the edge closest to the blower such that the air blows through the filter from the inside and air passing through the filter is blown towards the front edge of the cabinet.
- 5.2 The edge of the filter top nearest the handler should not be allowed to pass forward over the cage to prevent any debris from falling into the cage.
- 5.3 The filter top may then be moved to the side and rotated so that the filter is facing down on the surface of the cabinet.
- 5.4 Hands must be sprayed with Peroxygard before handling the wire bar lid and/or rodents in the cage. Take care not to spray Peroxygard in the animal's eyes.
- 5.5 Gloves should be kept moist with Peroxygard while working with the animals.
- 5.6 The wire bar lid may be placed in the inverted filter top, but the water bottles must be rotated to ensure that no water drips onto the filter. Wet filter paper will "wick" or draw microorganisms into the cage, defeating the purpose of their use.
- 5.7 Alternatively, the wire bar lid may be left on the cage and lifted each time to access the inside or rotated 90° and placed sideways across the cage.
- 5.8 Transfer the animals by their tails. Do not forget to wipe with Peroxygard your hands between each cage.

5.9 Change the water bottle and feed the animals.

5.10 When completed, replace the wire bar lid and the filter top in the reverse manner, again ensuring that no debris from the top of the filter can fall into the cage and return the cage to the rack.

## **6. Moving Equipment and Clean-Up**

6.1 When removing equipment from autoclave bags within the cabinet, gloved hands must be sprayed with Peroxygard after handling the “dirty” outside portion of the bag before removing the sterilized contents.

6.2 Ensure that the contents of the bag remain inside the cabinet during removal and that they don't touch the outside of the bag.

6.3 Autoclave bags with holes must be reported to supervisor so they can be repaired or discarded.

6.4 When you are finished working within the cabinet, clean down all surfaces with Peroxygard.

6.5 Dirty cages must have filter tops in place before leaving the room to prevent any contamination of the corridors.

6.6 All dirty cages and bottles must be brought to the dirty side of the cage wash area.