Policy:	SC-50-103
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Enabled by:	The Guide, AWA
Supersedes:	IACUC-50, 10/06/2013

Title: Animal Facility Quality Assurance and Monitoring

I. Purpose:

To provide standards for monitoring and quality assurance testing of equipment and methods used to clean, sanitize, disinfect, and sterilize animal caging and associated equipment and supplies. This policy also has a provision for testing equipment used for sterilizing supplies used for aseptic surgery in animals used in research and teaching.

II. Policy:

Cage wash facilities shall test caging and other reusable husbandry supplies/equipment that have been recently washed, sanitized and dried quarterly using Rodac plates., ATP Testers can be used in lieu of Rodac plates. Results must be logged. It is also recommended that Rodac plates are used as an infrequent secondary method to provide assurances that no viable organisms are found.

For automatic cage washers and rack washers the temperature of the rinse water shall be logged at the beginning of each day prior to running the machine. (Machines with an interlock preventing operation until the appropriate temperature has been reached are exempt from daily logging). The preferred minimum temperature 180 F, or 140-180 when the appropriate combination of chemical and heat has been achieved for sanitization. Monthly a tri temp or comparable temperature indicator will be run through cage washers and rack washers. Results will be logged and kept with machine records.

Autoclaves used for primary sterilization of caging supplies shall be monitored using a spore ampule or other equivalent bio indicator at least quarterly. Autoclaves used for sterilizing **non**-USDA covered species/rodent species surgical supplies and packs shall be tested at least quarterly using a spore ampule or other bio indicator.

Autoclaves used for non rodent USDA covered species surgery packs shall be tested at least bimonthly.

More frequent testing may be indicated by the Attending Veterinarian or Health Monitoring Coordinator during higher risk activities, or after unsatisfactory testing.

For All Autoclaves used infrequently, less than once every 3 months, the initial load shall

be tested using a bio-indicator to ensure the autoclave is still working properly after downtime.

Autoclave loads shall use tape and other indicators during the load in addition to the spore ampules or biological indicators. Other sterilizers used for primary sterilization of caging or surgical supplies must also use bio-indicators or other methods appropriate for the mode used.

NOTE: Please see SafetyNet #26 for additional information on autoclaves and their safe and effective operation. Per SafetyNet #26 ***Autoclaves used for biologicals have increased testing and validation requirements, the biosafety office can offer guidance on autoclaves used for laboratory materials and biologicals. Please contact them at biosafety@ucdavis.edu***

High risk activities such as feeding raw diets, unpasteurized food stuffs or other work involving known or suspected sources of potentially pathogenic bacteria or other organisms are subject to more stringent monitoring at the discretion of the AV. Raw food stuff and unpasteurized products may be a hazard to personnel and a possible source of pathogens for animals. Extra precautions shall be taken to ensure equipment and materials are properly sanitized and disinfected. Increased frequency of Rodac plate submissions may be implemented during high risk activities at the discretion of the AV or designee.

Hand washed or hand sanitized caging, equipment and other items coming into contact with animals will be monitored as follows: hand washed caging is subject to Rodac plate or ATP testing quarterly. Equipment used in research that is sanitized, for example behavior testing equipment or other lab testing apparatus will be tested annually using Rodac plates or ATP testers to validate that the sanitization methods remain adequate and effective. Revalidation after a change of methods is recommended. Infrequently used equipment (used less than annually), shall be tested prior to use to validate the current sanitization method. Testing of equipment not is use is not required.

A log or other facility kept record of testing, results and follow up shall be kept by the facility manager.

Results for all of the above mentioned testing modalities shall be available for review by the veterinarian and/or IACUC staff during visits and inspections.

III. Procedure:

Samples are collected at the intervals indicated above. For results submitted to the Comparative Pathology Laboratory (CPL) the Health Monitoring Coordinator (HMC) is copied and forwards any unsatisfactory results to the clinical veterinarian and/or facility manager for review and corrective action. Machines that are not functioning properly must be taken off-line until repaired and retested when brought back on-line.

For samples submitted to other laboratories or done in house copies must be reviewed by the facility manager and/or veterinarian. A log or other facility record must be kept

that indicates submissions, results, and follow up for unsatisfactory results. ATP tests fall into this category as do samples submitted to labs other than the CPL.

When submitting Rodac plates and spore ampules for analysis the following information must be included with the submission: **Date of test, location (building & room), type of test, and what was sampled.** For Rodac plates indicate what equipment or locations were tested and **for autoclaves indicate cycle and location of ampule**. For example flash cycle on top of instrument or wet cycle inside bottle. For ATP log: what was sampled and how it was processed/equipment being tested. You must also indicate if this is a routine test or a resample for unsatisfactory results.

For guidance on the is policy please contact the health monitoring coordinator at animaltransfer@ucdavis.edu or 530.752.7244 or 530.400.8827

The CPL submission sheet and more information can be obtained from CPL@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-2832 or http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ars/cpl.html