

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AC209

MICRO-ISOLATOR TECHNIQUES

(Updated 02/17/04)

*Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR)
University of Kentucky Medical Center*

PURPOSE: The purpose of this S.O.P. is to inform the laboratory animal technician of all of the procedures and responsibilities necessary to complete work requiring the use of a micro-isolator in the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources animal facilities.

APPLICATION: The procedure described below pertains to all DLAR personnel and research technicians using rats or mice requiring the micro-isolator.

Procedure:

A. General

1. If the hood is not left on continuously, turn it on high and allow it to flush the clean side of HEPA filter for a minimum of 5 (five) minutes before beginning work with a micro-isolator.
2. Make sure that you have enough sterilant to complete your procedures. Sterilant is provided in the two spray bottles near each bench. If the sterilant is empty, ask a DLAR technician for more.
3. Put on protective clothing. In most rooms this will include sleeves and gloves which are provided. Rinse off the gloves in the sink to prevent spreading the powder all over the micro-isolator and floors. Make sure that your gloves overlap the sleeves taking care to expose no skin.
4. Spray down the work surface and internal sides of the hood with the sterilant. Wipe these surfaces with paper towels that are wetted with the sterilant. Do not spray the HEPA filter area.
5. Spray your sleeves, gloves and forceps tray. If there is no sterilant in the forceps tray, open the spray bottle and fill up the tray with sterilant.
6. If you are changing dirty boxes, place all necessary items (i.e. clean boxes, water bottle baskets, food containers) in the hood and spray the outsides and bottoms with the sterilant as you do so.
7. Place the micro-isolator in the hood, spray the outside of the box (this includes the clean box if you are changing dirty boxes) and remove the filter top by tilting it to the left, right, or directly behind the box and placing it on the floor of the hood right side up. The floor of the hood should be sprayed periodically to prevent contamination between filter tops. Touching the outside of the micro-isolator will contaminate your gloves also. To decontaminate them before touching the wire bar lid, dip your gloves in the forceps tray and rub hands together. The wire bar lid will sit sideways across the cage to allow both hands free for your procedures.
8. After completing your procedures, replace the wire bar lid, the water bottle (sipper tube points downward), and filter top. Replace the micro-isolator to the designated "dirty cages" area outside of the nearest cage wash.
9. When you are finished with the hood, clean the work surface with the paper towels that are provided. Spray down the interior of the hood once again with the sterilant.
10. Throw away used gloves and sleeves in the trash can provided.

B. Specific

1. If you need sterile cages (setups) for separations and none are on the set up rack, you can set them up yourself by spraying down the wire bar lids in the hood. Then add the water and feed. If needing more than 10 setups, let the supervisor know 24 hours in advance to allow time for autoclaving supplies.
2. Rodent surgeries done in the hood should be performed on sterile drapes using sterile techniques.
3. Do not put anything into the micro-isolator that is not sterile. Please ask for additional supplies, if needed, such as sterile water, sterile feed or additional bedding.
4. Only those technicians that have been trained by DLAR will be allowed to use the techniques and equipment described above.

* There is a power point presentation on Micro-Isolator[®] Technique that is available to anyone that wishes to have a copy. Please contact the DLAR main office (H41A Chandler Medical Center) at 3-5885 to receive a copy of this.

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