GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE AND DECONTAMINATION OF KIT AND SPILLS

• Lab coats must be worn at all times.

• All laboratory areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times.

• The somewhat communal nature of the facility requires that users remove all their material, samples and waste from the laboratory at the end of the experiment.

• It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to obtain all necessary approvals from the GM Safety Committee (if GM) or the College Biological Safety Officer if Hazard Group 2 (or higher) biological agents are to be used.

• When bringing samples to the laboratory they should always be in a sealed outer container. Any larger items, e.g. 2 litre flasks, should be carried in a sealed container on a trolley. This is particularly important since entrance to the Bioreactor Suite is through the SEC building lobby.

• Samples containing microorganisms must only be transported to the laboratory via the goods lift, never the passenger lifts of the building.

• Eating and drinking are absolutely forbidden in the laboratory areas.

• Virkon is the disinfectant supplied for use in the Bioreactor Suite. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that this is a validated disinfectant for their particular sample. This information must be included in their own risk assessment (Form Bio1).

• If Virkon is not effective against the biological agent or GMO to be cultured then this must be discussed with the laboratory technician, James Mansfield, and approval obtained before use in the Bioreactor.

• All contaminated liquids must be decontaminated in 1% Virkon (final concentration) for 30 minutes prior to flushing down the sink with plenty of water. Waste must not be left overnight or for others to deal with.
• All contaminated plasticware must be placed in the clear autoclave bags held in the grey plastic containers.

• All contaminated glassware must be soaked in 1% Virkon for 30 minutes before being well rinsed and sent for washing.

• The following procedures for dealing with spillages apply to material in Class 1 or Hazard Group 1 only. Procedures for higher containment level work are available separately:
  
  • All spillages of solutions or media containing microorganisms must be cleaned up immediately. Solid waste must be placed in clear autoclave bags while liquid waste must be decontaminated with 1% Virkon before being mopped up with tissue which is then sent for autoclaving.

  • In case of a large spillage, for example from the 50 L fermentor, the spillage should be contained using the spill containment kit housed in the large yellow bucket. The floor and all other contaminated surfaces must be washed down with 1% Virkon.

  • To deal with very large-volume spills, the lab has a drain sunk into the floor under the central bench. The drain outlet is blocked with a bung. Very large-volume spills (and only those) can be run into the drain and decontaminated with 1% Virkon for at least 2 hours. After that, the bung can be removed and the waste washed down the drain with water.

  • Only blunt-ended needles should be used for addition of liquids through the septum of the fermentors.

  • The eye wash and the first aid kit are located next to the wash hand basin. First aiders for this lab are Poh-Choo Pang (SEC Building, Room 107, ext 45210) and Fiona May (SEC Building, Room 211, ext 50552).

  • All accidents should be reported to Stefan Hoyle, the Departmental Safety Officer.