

Category II Tissue Culture Laboratory – Operating Procedures

General Aspects of Safety in the Laboratory

It is not only your responsibility to “be safe”, but it is your responsibility to ensure those working around you “are safe too”.

Make sure you know and *understand* the procedures for the use and disposal of reagents, chemicals, cells and any potentially hazard materials.

If you are unsure of anything, ask a designated safety officer, first.

Detailed Procedures for using the communal TTL Tissue culture rooms on Level 4 are posted in those Tissue culture rooms. A summary of the most important are given below.

Class II Room

- Please ensure the door is completely closed to comply with HSE regulations and maintain correct air pressure.

Lab coats

All staff entering the Class II room must wear **Green** lab coats. White coats should be left on the pegs outside the room.

- Remove Green lab Coats before leaving the room.
- Do not put Green Lab Coats into general departmental washing.

Tissue Culture cabinets

- To avoid disruption of the air in the room, tissue culture cabinets should be left on during use.
- Cabinets should be thoroughly cleaned before and after use.

Before use

- Disinfect tissue culture cabinets by swabbing with 70% alcohol.
- Swab items being taken into the hood with 70% alcohol, avoid creating aerosols.

Waste disposal

- Biohazard waste must be double bagged and placed in the disposal bin.
- All unwanted sharps (Pasteur pipettes, needles should not be re-sheathed) should be placed in sharps bins which are then sent for autoclaving.
- All unwanted cultures and used medium must be disinfected by mixing with Virkon.
- It is the responsibility of the user to remove and decontaminate any contaminated glassware created. Once it has been decontaminated, it should be brought to the sterilisation washroom on level 1, labelled with an autoclave tape with AB Group written on it, logged in the washroom folder, and left there to be sterilised (and collected on the day when it is ready).
- After disinfection with Virkon, all the plasticware can be placed in the biohazard waste bags.
- Virkon solution must be replenished every week.

Waterbaths

- Please switch off water baths after use.
- Please do not waste media by leaving it in the waterbath overnight.
- Please remember to change the water in waterbath when needed (usually biweekly) with Aquaguard or any other standard disinfectant dissolved in diH₂O.

Accidental Spillages

- Spillage inside the cabinet: disinfect and clear immediately using Virkon solution and paper towels, dispose of papers towels to biohazard bag

- Spillage outside the cabinet: disinfect and clear immediately using Virkon* solution.

**Virkon: 1% by volume in water.*