

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 1004.9

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TITLE:	Monitoring Cage Wash Efficacy
SCOPE:	Maintenance Support and Cage Wash Personnel
RESPONSIBILITY:	Facility Manager, Maintenance Support and Cage Wash Personnel
PURPOSE:	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Monitoring Cage Wash Sanitation

I. PURPOSE

1. Monitoring of sanitation practices are essential in an animal facility. Monitoring methods can include visual inspection of the materials, monitoring of water temperatures, or microbiological monitoring.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. Maintenance Support and Cage Wash Personnel are responsible for monitoring cage wash efficacy by the visual inspection of equipment to ensure that it has been cleaned and by monitoring cage wash water temperatures to ensure sanitation.
2. Maintenance Support and Cage Wash Personnel are required on a weekly basis to send a temperature recording tape (e.g., Temp A Sure[®]) through the facility's cage wash equipment and maintain a log of results.
3. The Maintenance Support Supervisor or the Facility Manager is responsible for ensuring a work order is placed with the cage wash service provider for repair of the equipment in need of repair.
4. The Maintenance Support Supervisor or the Cage Wash Personnel are responsible for maintaining a log of equipment problems or failures, the corrective action taken, and the resolution on **CMDC #083.3** entitled ***Fixed Equipment Log Sheet***.
5. It is the responsibility of the Facility Manager to ensure microbiological testing is conducted on a quarterly basis. Facility Managers must designate and train a staff member to perform microbiological testing using the **Neogen[®] Accupoint Luminometer**, and when necessary RODAC plates and culturette swabs (See **SOP #1010** entitled "***Microbiological Monitoring of Sanitation Procedures***").
6. Facility Managers are responsible for all aspects of this SOP when Maintenance Support and Cage Wash Personnel are unavailable.

III. PROCEDURE

1. **Items washed in commercial cage washers should be visually inspected after each load to ensure items appear clean.** All visible debris and scale should be removed by the washing process. If items do not appear clean, items must be re-washed prior

to use. If the items do not appear clean after the second attempt the Maintenance Support Supervisor or the Facility Manager is notified for corrective action.

2. **Cage wash staff utilize temperature-recording tapes for water temperature monitoring of sanitizing equipment.** Extra temperature recording tapes can be ordered through Steris® and Washer Solutions™.
3. To test water temperature, after the equipment has run a complete cycle, place a temperature recording tape on either a dirty cage or the rack to be washed.
4. When the wash cycle is complete and the surface on which the recording tape was placed is cool, remove tape and place on the **Cage Wash Temperature Monitoring Sheet, CMDC #081.**
5. **All cage washers, bottle washers, and rack washers are monitored on a weekly basis** by observing that the water temperature recording tape has changed to a darken color, indicating that the final rinse water has reached **180° F**. If 180° F is reached, another temperature tape should be sent through the washer that day to insure the accuracy in the reading and an entry made on the **Cage Wash Temperature Monitoring Sheet** in the **Cage Wash Monitoring Log**. If the temperature does not change color on the second attempt, the staff member is responsible for reporting the problem to the Maintenance Support Supervisor or Facility Manager for corrective action.
6. **All cage washers/bottle washers/rack washers used to sanitize ABSL-3 caging and equipment must reach a final rinse temperature of 180°F.** Specific procedures for monitoring sanitization of ABSL-3 caging and equipment are described in SOP #908 entitled **Decontamination of Animal Biosafety Level-3 (ABSL-3) Caging and Equipment.**
7. In order to ensure the cage wash unit is sanitizing all surfaces of the cages and equipment effectively, **washed items are monitored bacteriologically, quarterly.** Freshly cleaned caging, equipment, and racks are randomly selected for testing in accordance with **SOP #1010**, entitled **“Microbiological Monitoring of Sanitation Procedures”**, and using the Neogen AccuPoint Luminometer in accordance with **SOP #1164** entitled **Neogen Accupoint Luminometer .**
8. When results of monitoring are unacceptable, an entry is made on the **Fixed Equipment Log Sheet** form stating the problem, who identified the problem, the corrective action taken, and who corrected it. This record is maintained in the **Cage Wash Monitoring Log Book.**
9. When cage wash equipment fails to operate properly, an entry is made on the **Fixed Equipment Log Sheet** stating the problem, who identified the problem, the corrective action taken, and who corrected it. This record is maintained in the **Cage Wash Monitoring Log Book.**

IV. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Let the cages or equipment cool before testing.

Approved:

Date: