

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 1010.13

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**TITLE:** Microbiological Monitoring of Sanitation Procedures  
**SCOPE:** Animal Care Personnel  
**RESPONSIBILITY:** Facility Manager and Technical Staff  
**PURPOSE:** To Outline the Proper Procedures for Obtaining, Processing and Recording Results of Microbiological Samples for Sanitation Monitoring

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## I. PURPOSE

1. Microbiological monitoring of sanitation procedures is essential in an animal facility. An effective microbiological monitoring program ensures that sanitation procedures are followed and are effective.

## II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. Facility Managers or designee are responsible for monitoring the efficacy of sanitation procedures performed in their facility. Managers may designate a staff member to perform testing.
2. Management is are responsible for the maintenance and security of the Neogen® Accupoint Luminometer portable analyzer in their facility and for ensuring the supplies (e.g., Accupoint Advanced Surface Sampler, and AccuPoint Advanced Water Sampler) necessary for monitoring sanitation are available as needed.
3. The Facility Manager or designee is responsible for forwarding the results of microbiological monitoring or providing the unit with stored sample results to the Assistant Director when data is available.
4. The Assistant Director is responsible for collecting, reviewing, and maintaining the results of testing and, when consulted, assisting Facility Managers with rectifying unacceptable levels of sanitation.

## III. PROCEDURES

1. Testing Program:
  - a. **Quarterly**, during the months of March, June, September, and December, **three representative primary enclosures** (e.g., washed and sanitized rat, mouse, cat, rabbit, bird, guinea pig, portable transport caging and stationary runs), **three pieces of equipment** (e.g., washed and sanitized water bottles, sipper tubes, feeders, and cage racks), at least **three surfaces** are sampled from a common procedural area (e.g., counter, carts and/or equipment surfaces that have been cleaned and sanitized and may have the potential for animal contact) and at **least three macro environmental surfaces** (e.g., walls, floors) will be sampled at each facility. For facilities with multiple procedural areas, a different procedural area will be sampled each quarter.
  - b. While performing quarterly microbiological monitoring of sanitation procedures, a water sample(s) will be obtained from an animal drinking water source identified within the facility (e.g., water bottle filling station, sink, or automatic watering zone) and tested for the presence of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) in accordance with **SOP #1014** entitled ***“Monitoring Animal Drinking Water Quality.”***

- c. Whenever an **operating room** is decontaminated prior to an aseptic survival surgical procedure involving a non-rodent USDA regulated species in accordance with **SOP #003** entitled "**Facilities for Aseptic Surgery for Non-rodent USDA Species,**" at least three surfaces (e.g., surgery table, light, anesthesia/monitoring equipment) will be sampled.
  - d. Whenever an **animal room** is decontaminated using Hydrogen Peroxide Vapor, biological and chemical Indicators must be placed prior to beginning the cycle. (See **SOP # 1016 Hydrogen Peroxide Decontamination,** and **SOP #1162 Bioquell Z-2 Hydrogen Peroxide Vapor Generator System, SOP #1018 Active-Closed Vaporized Hydrogen peroxide Exposure for Ventilated Rack Systems, Air Handling Units and Hosing Components** and **SOP # 016 Animal Room Preparation**). If decontamination using Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide is scheduled during quarterly sanitation testing, follow procedures in section a and section b within 48 hours post aeration.
  - e. Records of sanitation are maintained in accordance with **SOP #010** entitled "**Handling, Storage, and Retrieval of Records and Data.**"
2. Test Failure Follow-up:
- a. **Facility Managers or designee will be notified of failed tests.**
  - b. **Facility Managers or designee are responsible for investigating and correcting the cause of failed tests.** After corrective actions are complete additional samples of the same type item(s) or wall(s) of the failed room(s) will be retested. All retests will be conducted no more than 5 days after the failed test. If corrective actions require equipment repairs, the retest period may be extended.
  - c. If the retest fails, Facility Manager or designee will consult with the Assistant Director to reassess the cause of the failure and adequacy of corrective actions taken. The Assistant Director may elect to conduct additional testing as needed.
  - d. Animal housing rooms will not be re-occupied until test results are passing.
3. Data:
- a. The data file created during the download using AccuPoint, will be automatically saved but must be connected to a designated computer source.
  - b. The Assistant Director will update and maintain data from microbiological testing.

#### IV. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

1. NeoGen® AccuPoint Luminometer
2. Advance ATP Surface Sampler
3. Advance ATP Water Sampler

Approved:

Date: