TITLE: Interceptor Use in Evaluating Rodent Health  
SCOPE: All Animal Care Personnel  
RESPONSIBILITY: Veterinarians, All Animal Care Program Personnel  
PURPOSE: To Outline the Proper Procedures for Use of Tecniplast Interceptor Media for Rodent Health Evaluations

I. PURPOSE

1. To describe the proper use of the Tecniplast Interceptor use in IVC caging systems.

2. To aid in defining the microbial status of rodent colonies.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by all program staff.

2. The Facility Manager is responsible for ensuring that all technical and animal care staff are adequately trained and experienced in the use of Interceptors for rodent health surveillance.

3. The Assistant Director is responsible for Interceptor procurement, distribution to facilities and submission of samples for evaluation.

III. PROCEDURE

1. The Tecniplast Interceptor system collects exhaust air debris moving from cages to the exhaust filtration area of the air handler unit (AHU). A video can be viewed at https://www.tecniplast.it/en/product/interceptor.html

2. Rodent health evaluations are conducted using two (2) Interceptors in each AHU. One Interceptor is used to screen for 2 infectious agents (i.e., C. bovis, S. xylosus) after a 6 week Interceptor exposure. The second Interceptor is used for quarterly assessments of a broad range of infectious agents in the months of February, May, August, and November.

3. Two (2) Interceptors should be loaded in each AHU at the beginning of each quarter. One (1) Interceptor should remain in place for 6 weeks. The second Interceptor should remain in place for 12 weeks for optimal microbiological assessments.
4. **Preparing the Interceptor** for IVC microbiological monitoring:
   a. Record in the space provided on the outside of the Interceptor the date it is placed in the AHU (Date In), the **AHU Identification** number, and **Room number**.
   b. Open the AHU prefilter access panel and ensure the Interceptor metal frame is in place below the prefilter. If metal frame is not already in place, remove the prefilter and insert the frame with the runners facing down.
   c. Open the Interceptor and insert it into the metal frame and replace the prefilter into the AHU.
   d. Push the sliding section of the Interceptor to expose the filter medium and close the panel.
   e. The metal frame can accommodate 2 Interceptors, and both should be inserted at the beginning of each quarter.

5. **Interceptor Removal**
   a. Open the panel and remove the prefilter.
   b. Reverse the install procedure by pulling the Interceptor sliding section to protect the filter before extracting the Interceptor.
   c. Remove the Interceptor and fold to close.
   d. Record “**Date Out**” on Interceptor
   e. Place the interceptor in the provided hermetically recloseable bag for shipment and analysis.

6. **Submit Interceptor for Evaluation**
   a. Label bag with sample ID # (e.g., unique consecutive numbering 1, 2, 3,…)
   b. Complete **CMDC 261 IDEXX Sample Submission Form** by recording only the information below:
      1. Sample ID (1, 2, 3…)
      2. Species
      3. Source (AHU #)
      4. Building
      5. Room #
      6. Sample type

7. Submit samples and an electronic version of **CMDC 261** to the Assistant Director.

8. **Do not move/relocate AHUs** until results of quarterly assessments have been completed and evaluated.

9. The Assistant Director will notify the Facility Manager of the results of testing.

Approved: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________