



Sanitation Effectiveness of Investigator Maintained Hand-Sanitized Equipment

1.0 Scope and Application

Some housing systems or experimental protocols require sensitive equipment that cannot be sanitized in a mechanical washer. Sanitation of cages and equipment by hand with hot water and/or detergents or disinfectants can be effective but requires considerable attention to detail. Whether the sanitation process is automated or manual, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*¹, recommends regular evaluation of sanitation effectiveness. To ensure conformance with *Guide* recommendations, the Florida State University Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) has developed the following policy to monitor the sanitation effectiveness of investigator-maintained hand-sanitized equipment. This policy applies to all investigator-maintained hand-sanitized equipment, including but not limited to primary enclosures, feeding rigs, behavior equipment, operant chambers, and restraint devices.

2.0 Summary of Method

- Details of hand sanitation methods (i.e., disinfectant, dilution, contact time) must be described in the Animal Care Standard Operating Procedure for Investigator-Maintained Animals.
- Biological evaluation (RODAC plating, ATP hygiene testing) of hand-sanitized equipment must be performed at least once annually. LAR personnel are available to perform rapid ATP hygiene tests upon request. Records of biological evaluations must be maintained by individual laboratories and must be available during ACUC semiannual inspections and regulatory or accreditation site visits.
- Equipment with unsatisfactory biological evaluation results must be re-sanitized and re-evaluated within 14 days. Sanitation methods that fail two consecutive biological tests must be re-evaluated in consultation with LAR veterinary or supervisory personnel.

3.0 Reference

1. Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. 2011. *Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press.

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