



SANITATION VALIDATION POLICY

Purpose

Federal regulations require routine sanitation of surfaces that animals directly contact. Furthermore, an oversight program is recommended to monitor the effectiveness of sanitation practices. Agricultural facilities/settings such as farms or barns are exempt from sanitation requirements, and instead should be maintained in sanitary conditions.

Definitions

1. **Primary enclosures** refers to all items that come into direct contact with the animal during housing including but not limited to the cage, wire feeder/food bowl, enrichment devices, and water bottle/bowl.
2. **Surfaces and Equipment with Direct Animal Contact** refers to all surfaces the animal directly contacts when outside of the primary enclosure including, but not limited to behavioral testing equipment, restraint devices, and imaging equipment.
3. **Disinfectants** are products used to reduce or eliminate microorganisms on non-living surfaces. Sporocidal disinfectants, such as Spor-Klenz, Wexcide, 10% Bleach, Opticide and Roccal-D, should be used for all surfaces and equipment with Direct Animal Contact described above, following manufacturer's instructions. Please note: Alcohol is neither a sterilant nor a high-level (sporicidal) disinfectant¹.
4. **Sanitation** is the maintenance of environmental conditions conducive to health and well-being.
5. **Manual sanitation** is the use of hand-washing to remove microorganisms and debris

Requirements

1. Primary enclosures:
 - a. Automated sanitation equipment should be validated at least quarterly to ensure adequate performance of the equipment
 - b. Manual sanitation processes should be validated using biological methods such as RODAC plates and/or Biological swabs on a **semi-annual basis for areas continuously housing animals (satellite or dedicated)**. Results must be maintained and available during semi-annual housing inspections
 - Validation frequency for areas periodically housing animals must be defined in the SOP for that location as it may be appropriate to validate less frequently based on how often animals will be housed in that space
 - c. The disinfectant used, contact time and dilution must be included in the SOP/SMP for the housing area
 - d. Performance measures such as visual inspection of equipment and assessment of animal health must be evaluated on a continual basis
2. Surfaces and Equipment with Direct Animal Contact
 - a. Solid/Non-Porous/Non-Permeable (i.e. stainless steel, hard plastic) should be sanitized using sporicidal disinfectants at a frequency to maintain sanitary conditions
 - b. Porous materials cannot be sanitized and therefore must be cleaned and replaced regularly to help ensure a clean environment for the animals
 - c. Performance measures such as visual inspection of equipment and assessment of animal health must be evaluated on a continual basis

3. Validation thresholds for “passing” may vary for different facilities and/or species and should be developed in consultation with your clinical veterinarian, examples for biological methods include <15 colony forming units for RODAC® plates and <30 RLU (Relative Light Units) for biological swabs. Surfaces that do not pass based on biological test thresholds, must be re-sanitized until a passing level is achieved.

Please note: Testing is available on a fee for service basis from various commercial and OSU labs. Contact OR-ulargastaff@osu.edu

Applicable Regulations/Guidance

1. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition
2. USDA Animal Welfare Regulations
3. Howard HL, Haywood JR, Laber K. 2001. Alcohol as a disinfectant. AAALAC International Connection Winter/Spring 2001:16.
4. Rutala WA, Weber DJ., Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee 2008. Guideline for disinfection and sterilization in healthcare facilities, 2008. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control.

History of Revisions

048-00 - new policy approved 5/17/13

048-01 - revised to add Roccal-D to list of approved products 10/28/13

048-02 - revised to clarify that sanitization for primary housing must be validated semiannually regardless of the method used, and that the pre-validated products apply to surfaces and equipment only. 10% bleach was added to the group of Sporicidal disinfectants. Visual Inspections and Performance Measures were added as methods of verification. 12/20/13

048-03 – revised to add the following sentence to the purpose section: Farms or barns where agricultural species are housed are exempt from this policy but must be maintained in sanitary conditions. 12/16/16

048-04 – Changed title; added automated sanitation equipment; added validation frequency statement for areas periodically housing animals. 06/16/17