



## A. PURPOSE

To provide researchers with guidance on the IACUC's expectations for the evaluation of sanitation effectiveness for reusable specialized caging and research equipment used on a repeated basis for live animal activities when the items are not disinfected by University Animal Care (UAC) or autoclaved prior to each use. The NIH Guide states (p73) "whether the sanitation process is automated or manual, regular evaluation of sanitation effectiveness is recommended. This applies to devices, equipment or items such as restraint devices or holders, behavioral or physiology testing equipment, imaging equipment, toys or enrichment items, other items, and non-standard caging food/water containers with repeated direct animal contact."

## B. GUIDELINES

- Equipment items should be sanitized by UAC Cage Wash Services whenever possible. UAC Cage Wash Services routinely perform sanitization efficacy testing, thus removing the need for investigators to perform this testing.
- An SOP with multiple methods for the sanitization of specialized caging and research equipment that come into direct contact with live animals has been developed by UAC.
  - These standard sanitization methods are strongly recommended when not utilizing UAC Cage Wash Services (*See UAC SOP – Sanitation of Research Items Used with Animals- on Confluence*).
  - UAC regularly tests and documents the sanitation effectiveness of each of these standardized methods, so if one of these methods is utilized efficacy testing does not need to be performed by the investigator.
- If an investigator utilizes a sanitization method not approved and routinely evaluated for efficacy by UAC, the investigator must perform and document efficacy testing of the method themselves.
  - The sanitization method should have an associated SOP prepared by the investigator, which must be available for IACUC review upon request.
  - The efficacy evaluation following sanitization may use microbiologic culture, organic material detection systems (e.g. adenosine triphosphate (ATP) bioluminescence), or another method that confirms adequate sanitation was achieved.
  - Each different sanitization process (SOP) should be assessed individually for efficacy. For example, hand-wash/rinse and chemical disinfection are two different sanitization processes, so each would need to be assessed for efficacy.
  - Evaluation of sanitation effectiveness should be performed on a regular basis, at least once every 3 years, or whenever there is a change to the sanitization procedure.
  - Each efficacy testing episode should be recorded in a log and should include the sanitization method used (per investigator SOP), the specialized cage or research items subjected to efficacy testing, the date the items were sanitized, and the date the efficacy testing was performed. These logs and SOPs must be available for review upon request.

## C. REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanitation, [pp 72-73](#).
- [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories](#), 5<sup>th</sup> Edition
- [Hygiena SystemSURE Plus Luminometer](#), Ultrasnap ATP Swabs
- UAC SOP – [Sanitation of Research Items Used with Animals](#)



**D. HISTORY (History page to be removed prior to publishing on website.)**

Effective Date	Version #	Authors	Description
12/10/2018	000	IACUC	New Document
08/12/2019	001	IACUC	Revisions, Added reference to UAC SOP
09/12/2022	002	IACUC	3-year review