

Standard operation procedure: Clothing and hygiene in the Barrier unit

SOP nbr: 2-02

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CLOTHING AND HYGIENE IN THE BARRIER UNIT

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To minimise the risk of contaminating animals and facilities in the Barrier.
- 1.2 To minimise the risk of spreading infection between animals and staff.
- 1.3 To minimise the risk of exposure to and the spread of microorganisms and allergens.

2.0 DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 KPM ensures that there is an adequate amount of autoclaved clothing and single-use equipment in the staff sluice room.
- 2.2 KPM ensures that there are sufficient personal hygiene products so that staff can have a full body wash.
- 2.3 KPM ensures that sufficient cleaning and disinfection agents are available.
- 2.4 KPM provides thorough training for new members of staff and staff at NTS who will be using the Barrier.
- 2.5 KPM checks that all those inside the unit are correctly clothed at all times and assists those who are not.
- 2.6 All staff must keep themselves up to date with requirements regarding clothing and hygiene and follow these at all times.

3.0 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 See SOP 1-01 "Quarantine rules for users and staff" and SOP 2-01 "Attire in the MDU" at our [homepage](#).
- 3.2 The section is divided into three units, each with a different health status.
- 3.3 All equipment to be brought into the Barrier must be sterilised or disinfected.
- 3.4 Shoes are to be placed in the clean corridor outside the sluice leading to the Barrier.
- 3.5 Disinfect the gloves with hand disinfection, which hangs on the wall on the unclean side of the sluice.
- 3.6 Ziploc bags containing mobile telephones and access cards must be disinfected again with 70% ethanol in the sluice leading to the Barrier and then placed on the bench on the clean side of the sluice.
- 3.7 Discard the gloves. Put your trousers, shirt, hairnet and surgical mask in the cupboard on the dirty side of the staff sluice. Put your facemask in a separate bag. Bras and socks should be placed in a separate





- bag with any other underclothes when showering before entering the unit. If no shower is taken, you can keep your own underclothes on (but not your bra).
- 3.8 Stand on the dirty side of the step-over and put on a pair of clean socks hanging on the clean side before you step down into the clean side of the sluice area.
 - 3.9 Wash your hands and put on clean clothes from the cupboards on the clean side. Put on a hairnet and surgical mask that covers your nose and mouth. A P3 mask with filter must be used at all times in DU-036. A P3 mask with filter must be used when changing cages in DU-041 and can be used at all times, if desired. A surgical mask does not protect against dust.
 - 3.10 Put on gloves (these are discarded in the animal housing room). Put on shoes when you enter the anteroom (DU-037).
 - 3.11 You are not allowed to enter DU-036 after having been in DU-041 or DU-039 (lab). Always go to DU-036 first, if you are to carry out work there.
 - 3.12 Discard the gloves and put on new, long, inner gloves in the animal housing room. Put on short, outer gloves before handling cages, animals or clean equipment.
 - 3.13 Each rack constitutes a separate, microbiological unit and you must always change your outer gloves between handling the different racks.
 - 3.14 Discard the outer gloves before handling spray bottles, door cords, computers etc. Use gloves with care: do not touch your spectacles, scratch your face, touch a telephone etc. with the same gloves as you use to handle animals and equipment. It is better to change gloves once too often, rather than too infrequently.
 - 3.15 Discard the outer gloves on leaving the housing room/laboratory. Put on new, outer gloves when handling equipment in the anteroom, office or laboratory. Discard the gloves and put on new, long, inner gloves in the animal housing room.
 - 3.16 Always use a trolley when moving animals between the housing room and the lab.
 - 3.17 The LAF bench must be washed with soapy water and disinfected with 70% ethanol between handling each rack. The LAF bench must be disinfected with Prochlor at the end of the working day. Always use the LAF bench on full power as well as gloves and safety glasses when using disinfectants. The safety glasses must be disinfected with 70% ethanol after use.
 - 3.18 Always use the LAF bench on full power when opening cages in order to minimise exposure to allergens and infectious agents and to limit the spread of these to surrounding areas.
 - 3.19 Put your shoes back in the anteroom when you leave the unit. Then go into the sluice and over the step-over into the dirty side. Place dirty clothes in the appropriate containers for dirty laundry. Discard your facemask and hairnet. Disinfect your hands and change back into your own socks, facemask and underwear, if you had taken this off. Disinfect your hands and put on the rest of your clothes. Put on gloves as you leave the sluice.
 - 3.20 If you are leaving for lunch and returning later, the clothes can be reused as long as they are not visibly soiled. Place your trousers, shirt and hairnet in a bag on the clean side of the sluice. Place your facemask and autoclaved-bra in separate bags on the clean side of the sluice. Do not reuse the socks.
 - 3.21 Cleaning is carried out according to current procedures.

4.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT (HSE)

- 4.1 Everyone must have adequate training in order to ensure that they use clothing and equipment in the correct way.
- 4.2 Work must be carried out on a ventilated bench or LAF bench in order to minimise exposure to allergens and infectious agents and to limit the spread of these to surrounding areas.
- 4.3 All those handling chemicals must have undergone adequate training and have access to the correct protective equipment in order to ensure that chemicals are used safely.
- 4.4 Everyone must be familiar with Eco Archive and the safety data sheets for the chemicals they may be exposed to.

Contec Prochlor	CAS no.	Hazard statements	First aid measures
Calcium Hypochlorite	7778-54-3	H272: May intensify fire. H302: Harmful if swallowed. H314: Causes severe skin burns and eye damage. H400: Very toxic to aquatic life. EUH031: Toxic gas will be generated when in contact with acids.	If in contact with skin: Wash immediately with plenty of soap and water. If in contact with the eyes: Rinse the eye(s) under running water for 15 minutes. Contact a doctor. If swallowed: Rinse the mouth with water. If vapours are inhaled: Move into fresh air. Contact a doctor.

Kemetyl technical ethanol 96%	CAS no.	Pictogram	Hazard statements	Precautionary statements
Ethanol	64-17-5	 	H225: Highly flammable liquid and vapour. H319: Causes serious eye irritation.	P210: Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking. P370 + P378: In case of fire: Extinguish with carbon dioxide (CO ₂), foam, powder or water.

5.0 EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- 5.1 Autoclaved trousers and shirts
- 5.2 Autoclaved underwear and socks

5.3 Hairnets, surgical masks, P3 mask with filter, long and short gloves

5.4 Safety glasses

5.5 Soapy water

5.6 Paper towels

5.7 70% ethanol

5.8 Prochlor

6.0 EDITING HISTORY

6.1 22.09.2017 (Erle Linnea Fevåg)

6.2 11.03.2021 (Frøydis Kilmer)

6.3 07.02.2022 (Erle Linnea Fevåg)

6.4 12.04.2023 (Erle Linnea Fevåg)

7.0 REFERENCES

7.1 The Working Environment Act/Arbeidsmiljøloven (2005) <http://www.lovdata.no/all/hl-20050617-062.html>