



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	603	Cage Wash Safety	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	4/28/23		Supersedes:	0

Author(s):	Amanda Larson	Sign:	<i>Amanda Larson</i>	Date:	5-2-2023
	Richard Duru	Sign:	<i>Richard Duru</i>	Date:	5/3/23
Director:	Dr. Gregory Lawson	Sign:	<i>Gregory Lawson</i>	Date:	5-2-2023

PROCEDURE

All work instructions must be demonstrated by the trainer and performed by the trainee.

1. Inspect all safety devices daily (tunnel washer emergency stop, rack washer emergency stop, emergency eye wash, emergency shower, hydro-pac compactor emergency stop, hydro-pac emergency stop to ensure they are easily accessible (not blocked by supplies) and not damaged (notify supervisor with any deficiencies)
2. Proper PPE must always be worn.
 - a) These include:
 - i. Uniform (scrubs)
 - ii. Lab coat or disposable gown- Required when actively working in the dirty cage wash
 - iii. Gloves
 - iv. N95 respirator or a PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator) required when cages are being dumped (to reduce exposure to airborne allergens and particulates)
 - v. Eye protection required when cages are being dumped and when handling chemicals (to prevent particulates and/or chemicals entering)
 - vi. Ear protection required when tunnel washer is running.
 - vii. Heat resistant gloves (available/use as needed for supplies that are hot coming out of the rack or tunnel washer)
 - viii. Chemical resistant gloves required when handling chemical concentrations/diluting chemicals. **See Appendix A**
 - xi. Chemical & waterproof apron (available/use as needed when unloading wet items from rack or tunnel washer). **See Appendix A**

Last Updated: 0/00/00

3. Keep floors uncluttered/clear, use caution when walking around (wet or loose bedding on floor). Place wet floor signs in areas with wet and/or slippery conditions.

4. Proper lifting techniques:

Lift supplies by bending with your legs (not bending at the back), use pallet jacks, carts, flatbeds, or other approved devices to move items and seek assistance with lifting and/or moving supplies that are over 50lbs.

5. Tunnel Washer- When removing items from conveyor belt

- a) Use caution to avoid getting fingers caught in the conveyor belt. (**Do not** insert fingers into the conveyor belt or attempt to reach into the conveyor belt.)
- b) Tie up long hair & remove hanging necklaces/jewelry, lanyards, or loose clothing. These can get caught in the conveyor belt.
- c) If anything gets caught in the conveyor belt or machine, initiate an emergency pull cord or button, & do not climb in the tunnel washer. Notify the supervisor immediately.
- d) If the tunnel washer shuts down, the individual working on the other side must walk around and check to see what caused the shutdown.

6. Rack Washer:

- a) Verify that no one is in the rack washer before starting a cycle.
- b) If someone is inside or you get caught in the rack washer when a cycle begins.
- i. From the inside:
 - Lynx rack washer: Pull the red safety cable and open the doors by applying force at the "PUSH HERE" sign on the doors).
 - Tecniplast rack washer: Push the red safety bars and the cycle will stop immediately, then push open the doors.
 - ii. From the outside:

To shut down from the outside of the machine, press the red emergency "STOP" button located on the control panel.
- d) If the rack washer shuts down, the individual working on the other side must walk around and check to see what caused the shutdown.
- e) Do not enter the walk-in rack washer until the cycle is complete.

7. Safety and Emergency Response:

a) Cage wash safety box:

- Contains eye protection, ear protection, heat resistant gloves, chemical resistant gloves, chemical/water resistant apron, and emergency contact information (SDS data sheets, chemical spill precautions and emergency first aid for exposures).
- Return non-standard PPE items back to the cage wash safety box immediately after use so that others can use. If supplies are out in the cage wash safety box, notify the facility supervisor.

b) Emergency eyewash and shower:

In the event of a chemical or other exposure (e.g. bedding in eye), flush the affected area on the body with the emergency eyewash and/or emergency shower for a minimum of 15 minutes.

c) Spill: If a large spill occurs, evacuate the area, secure the room by closing all doors and place a "Do Not Enter" sign on all doors, and immediately report to the Facility Supervisor.

8. Notify the Facility Supervisor immediately if any emergency, exposure, or injury occurs and seek medical attention (if applicable).

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

REVISION HISTORY			
REVISION NUMBER	AUTHOR(S)	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION(S)
1			

Appendix A

Chemical resistant/waterproof apron



Chemical resistant gloves

