

Requirements for Physical Containment Level 2 (PC2) Constant Temperature Rooms

The requirements listed for PC2 containment emphasise the procedures to be observed by the worker to ensure a basic level of safety. There are also some architectural requirements relating to design and equipment.

Many of the procedures detailed below are those that would be considered essential minimum practices in any microbiological laboratory.

Procedures

1. Facility doors must be closed when laboratory procedures are in progress.
2. Access to the facility must be restricted to authorised persons and/or authorised classes of persons.
3. Mouth pipetting is prohibited in the facility.
4. Eating, drinking, application of cosmetics or smoking is prohibited in the facility.
5. Storage of food or drink in the facility or in any storage unit containing GMOs (e.g. refrigerator) is prohibited in the facility.
6. Closed footwear must be worn.
7. GMOs, organisms infected with GMOs, equipment or protective clothing contaminated with GMOs, and liquid and solid wastes containing GMOs, must be decontaminated by pressure steam sterilisation (autoclaving), chemical treatment, incineration or any other method approved in writing by the Regulator. Chemical disinfectant treatment must be in accordance with Appendix E of AS/NZS 2243.3:2002. Incineration must be in a high temperature, high efficiency, EPA-approved incineration facility.
8. Work benches and surfaces must be decontaminated with a disinfectant solution after spills and when work is completed.
9. Material to be taken from the facility to an autoclave, or elsewhere in the building, must be carried in a closed, unbreakable outer container. Provision must be made to allow for the penetration of steam into the container during autoclaving.
10. Any procedures that generate aerosols containing GMOs must be performed in a biological safety cabinet or other equipment designed to contain aerosols specifically approved in writing by the Regulator.
11. All requirements for a PC2 Constant Temperature Room specified in the Certification Instrument issued by the Regulator must be complied with at all

times, even if the work being performed in the facility involves organisms that are not GMOs.

12. Cultures must be clearly identified, dated and appropriately stored.

Essential Equipment

13. The facility must have convenient access to a pressure steam steriliser (autoclave).
14. If procedures that generate aerosols containing GMOs are to be performed in the facility, the facility must contain a biological safety cabinet, or other equipment specifically approved in writing by the Regulator that is designed to contain aerosols.
15. Installation, use and decontamination of the biological safety cabinet must be in accordance with the requirements of AS/NZS 2647: "Biological safety cabinets - Installation and use".
16. The biological safety cabinet must be tested at least every 12 months by a NATA accredited organisation. The cabinet must be labelled to show its test status.

Signs

17. The facility must be labelled with the following adhesive signs as supplied by the OGTR:
 - (a) a Physical Containment Level 2 (PC2) sign on the outside of facility access door(s);
 - (b) a biohazard symbol on the outside of facility access door(s); and
 - (c) a PC2 Facility Practice sign prominently displayed inside the facility.

The signs for facilities are available from the OGTR, only after the facility has been certified.