

Appendix 13

Structural and Operational Requirements of the Containment Level for Vertebrate Laboratory Animals

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- The animals are maintained in secure primary enclosures using internationally accepted laboratory animal cages of polypropylene or polycarbonate construction with stainless steel wire bar lids. The animals are held in one, or a suite of rooms. The floor plans for the facilities are enclosed in Appendix 2.
- The macro-environment of the holding facilities is climate controlled, by systems that deliver up to 10-20 room air changes per hour by 100% fresh air. Each animal room is independently ventilated and exhaust air discharged with no recirculation. Thermal controls provide individual room or group (room suites) temperature control within a set point of 20°C. Light timers control the light/dark cycle in each room.
- The animal room floor, wall and ceiling surfaces are readily sanitizable. The floor surfaces are smooth, non-slip and resistant to wear.
- Animal room doors open inwards and door barriers are in place whenever the doors are open.
- The features of animal holding rooms, which facilitates ready capture of any escaped animals includes a coved wall to floor junction, rooms maintained free of miscellaneous equipment (under which animals may hide) and a door barrier.
- Procedures to prevent accidental removal of animals include strict control of personnel access and a record of animal movement in the register.
- The facility provides for receipt of animals, equipment, bedding, and feed.
- Animal husbandry is provided by trained animal care technicians. All animals are observed daily, and any animal health problems are reported to the Senior Technician.
- Trained animal care staff performs cage washing. Mechanical washing is performed using a commercial rack washer operating at 80 - 85°C using an acid detergent. All cages and water bottles are changed and washed weekly, or more frequently according to condition.
- Dead animals are identified, removed from the cage, wrapped in newspaper and placed in storage. Disposal is by incineration using InterWaste Ltd. Infected waste bedding is autoclaved and then disposed of by incineration.
- All boxes, shavings, tops, nesting material, water and environmental enrichment items are autoclaved at 121°C for the appropriate time (see SOPs) prior to animal usage.
- Personnel wear protective clothing when working in the facility; this includes a gown or lab coat, gloves and footwear covers.
- Work with microorganisms within the facility is conducted under conditions specified in the containment controls imposed by EPA or the conditions of the import health standard. The minimum containment conditions if not otherwise specified will be in accordance with PC2 conditions of A/NZS 2243.3.

- Manipulation of animals is in accordance with the University of Otago Code of Ethical Conduct, which includes approval of the manipulation by the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC).
- Removal of animals from the Containment Facility is not permitted.
- A register of laboratory animals is maintained of the species and strains held in containment. These records are correlated with the identification cage cards, ear tags, or other individual marking systems.
- An application to transfer laboratory animals from one Containment Facility to another is made in writing to the MPI Biosecurity Inspector. Approval in writing from the supervisor is required prior to transfer. Appropriate forms are available from the Manager or Sector Manager.
- An import permit is required prior to bringing animals into the country. See the Manager or MPI Biosecurity Inspector for information.
- A Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate (BACC) should accompany each import. If this does not accompany the import, the importer must apply for a retrospective BACC and this is kept by the Manager with the other relevant paper work.
- Uncleared biological products are securely contained and used only within the Containment and Transitional Facility. Biological products imported under restricted permits are placed in a secure container labelled with a biohazard sticker before storage. They may not be removed from the facility unless for transfer to another approved Transitional Facility (written approval from the MPI Biosecurity Inspector is required) or for destruction. Experimental animals shall not be exposed to biological products unless approved by the CTO (if experimental animals are to be exposed to such products contact must be made with the AEC first).
- **Exposure of Experimental Animals to Restricted Biological Products**
Approval of the MPI Biosecurity Inspector will be sought before any microorganism, restricted biological product or cell culture is exposed to, or introduced to, any experimental animal. Such application shall specify the species of microorganism to be exposed to the experimental animal. Any such exposure will be carried out under containment controls approved by EPA or the University of Otago IBSC acting under the delegated authority of EPA, or as specified in the Import Health Standard accompanying the uncleared restricted biological product. The exposure will be carried out on Level B of the University of Otago, Wellington which meets the requirements of the MAF Standard 154.03.03 "Containment Facility for Vertebrate Laboratory Animals" or, with the approval of the MPI Biosecurity Inspector, in another facility that meets this Standard. All work with animals must be covered by an AEC approval and must be conducted according to the conditions specified in that approval.
- Any animal that is imported into the facility from overseas is required to be placed in Quarantine for 30 days. At the end of this period the MPI Biosecurity Inspector is notified indicating the health status of the animals. The animals will not be removed

from quarantine until the MPI Biosecurity Inspector gives approval. All packaging is disposed of according to Appendix 14 of this manual.

