

University Occupational Health and Safety Information Sheet

MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET USER CHECKS

All users of Biological Safety Cabinets must be trained on its correct use and follow good practice to ensure both you and your work is protected. It is important to remember all biological work that poses the risk of airborne infection MUST be carried out in a MSC.

Pre-Use Checks	
It is expected that all users will check that the MSC is working properly and is offering the protection expected for the work being carried out as detailed in the associated risk assessment.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the MSC has been tested within the last 12 to 14 months. • Check there are no audible or visual alarms indicated on the control panel. DO NOT ignore or mute the alarms. • Check the airflow meter. • Go through the checklist below and ensure the results are satisfactory. <p>DO NOT USE THE CABINET IF AIR VELOCITIES ARE OUTWITH PAPER PARAMETERS OR ANY ALARMS ARE SOUNDING, REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO FLOOR MANAGER</p>	
User Checklist	Frequency
Air velocity indicator within safe parameters	daily
No visual or audible alarms	daily
Internal lighting works	daily
Work area clean and tidy	daily
Items not obstructing baffles / grilles	daily
Audible noise (of the system)	daily
'Passed' MSC statutory test label is in-date	monthly
Inflow velocities have been checked	monthly
Good Practice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunsen burners must not be used within the MSC. • Before you start work, turn the MSC on, remove the night door/lift sash, and allow the airflows to stabilise for at least 5 minutes • Wipe down the cabinet using 70% Ethanol • Disinfect any equipment going into the cabinet by wiping with 70% Ethanol • Keep the amount of equipment in the cabinet to a minimum • Perform operations as close to the middle of the cabinet as possible (at least 150mm from the front opening), do not overstretch. • Avoid excessive movement of materials and arms through the front of the cabinet; • Whenever you remove your hands from the MSC then you must change your gloves or disinfect them before putting them back into the MSC • When you remove/place, your hands into the cabinet allow the cabinet to stabilize before resuming work. • Keep the work area clean and tidy. • Any spills of viable biological agents within the cabinet must be immediately treated with a suitable disinfectant, usually 1% Virkon Solution. 	