

CHAPTER 7

Part 1: General conditions

The holder of the certification shall:

- take all reasonable steps to ensure that the facility, and all necessary equipment to be housed in the facility or accessible to the facility, is maintained over time;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that all people working within the facility are aware of the specific requirements, particularly the work practices, to be observed in the facility; and
- ensure that the facility is inspected by an appropriately trained and experienced person at least once per year. A copy of the inspection report, regarding compliance with the Regulator's conditions of certification, shall be provided to the Regulator.

CHAPTER 7

Part 2: Specific conditions

SECTION H: Requirements for Animal Containment Level PC3

Note: Reference must be made to the Australian Standards AS/NZS 2243.3: 1995 (*Safety in laboratories: Microbiology*) and AS 2982 (*Laboratory design and construction*) for detailed physical containment requirements.

General

The requirements for PC2 animal containment facilities shall be complied with in addition to the requirements below.

Construction

1. Entrance to the PC3 animal facility is limited only to people aware of the potential hazard. The entrance door shall be fitted with a 'fire-escape lock' (i.e. accessible only from the outside using a special key but freely accessible from inside).

The door shall be posted with signs identifying the facility and listing the procedures applicable. The name and telephone number of the animal facility supervisor or other responsible person shall be attached.

2. The PC3 animal facility shall not be accessible to the general public or open on to a public thoroughfare.
3. The PC3 facility shall be isolated from other areas of the animal facility by an airlock having two doors in series, each fitted with automatic closers.

The PC3 area shall be maintained at a minimum negative pressure of 50 Pa when both doors are closed and 25 Pa when one door is open. The negative pressure shall be achieved by means of an independent room exhaust discharging to open air through a filter. The replacement air shall be drawn into the room through a filtered aperture the size of which can be adjusted and set to achieve the room negative pressure.

All filters shall be of medium grade having a minimum efficiency to arrest 95% of all particles above 5 micrometers. To prolong the life of the exhaust filters against rapid clogging by animal hair and feed dust,

or in the case of poultry, skin danders and feather down, a roughing filter shall be used preceding the main filter. This will enable filter changing procedures in which one filter is always interposed between the room and outside atmosphere.

Ventilation rates shall ensure an acceptable atmosphere quality for animal welfare. If air cooling is required, this shall be through cooling coils mounted external to the animal rooms.

4. The facility shall be constructed so that the finishes on walls, floors, ceilings and benches are smooth, impervious and easily cleanable on all faces and are able to withstand all relevant decontaminants.
5. All liquid and solid wastes from the animal facility shall be decontaminated by autoclaving prior to disposal. If floor drains are present, the drain traps shall always be filled with water or suitable disinfectant. When animals are in the room, floor drains shall be sealed with an airtight plug.
6. Pest control systems for insects, rodents etc. shall be instituted.
7. It shall be possible to decontaminate the PC3 area independently with formaldehyde gas and for the gas to be discharged safely to the atmosphere upon completion.
8. The facility shall have access to an autoclave either within the PC3 area or in the animal building.
9. The facility shall have a hand-basin and foot and elbow operated taps located near the exit.
10. Biological safety cabinets shall be used within the PC3 facility for containment of aerosols and control of infectious material.

Operating Procedures

11. Standard procedures for operating at PC3 laboratory level shall be followed. No other work is to be done simultaneously with work requiring PC3 containment.

The PC3 animal facility shall be inspected at least annually by the IBC to ensure that its containment requirements are intact.

Only people authorised by the IBC are to enter the animal facility and only after they have been advised of the potential hazard, and meet any specific requirements (e.g. immunisation). A record shall be maintained to provide an up-to-date inventory of the animals present and a chronological record of procedures performed.

12. Protective clothing, gloves and footwear shall be worn. Protection against aerosols, scratches and bites shall be considered. Protective clothing shall be removed before leaving the facility. Dirty clothing shall be decontaminated, preferably autoclaved, before being laundered.
13. Eating, drinking, smoking and storing of food for human use are not permitted in animal rooms.
14. Personnel shall wash their hands after handling cultures and animals and before leaving the animal room.
15. Work surfaces shall be decontaminated after use or spills of viable materials.
16. Bedding material and waste from infected animal cages or pens shall be autoclaved before removal from cages and shall be handled in such a manner as to minimise the creation of aerosols.
17. Cages shall be decontaminated by autoclaving before cleaning and washing.
18. Special attention shall be paid to constraining animals during experiment and to the prevention of their escape.
19. Live animals shall not leave the facility. Animal carcasses shall be rendered safe by sterilisation before disposal. Animals used in genetic manipulation experiments are not to be used for other purposes or to provide tissues for other purposes.

Signs

20. The entrance doors shall be clearly labelled with signs indicating the type of facility and the containment level. These signs are available from the OGTR only after the OGTR has approved certification of the facility.