

Risk Assessment: Use of the Luminex

Scope

Luminex® xMAP® technology is built on existing technology including flow cytometry, microspheres, lasers, digital signal processing and traditional chemistry. It functions by color-coding tiny beads (microspheres), into 100 distinct sets. Each bead set can be coated with a reagent specific to a particular bioassay, allowing the capture and detection of specific analytes from a sample. Within the Luminex compact analyzer, lasers excite the internal dyes that identify each microsphere particle, and also any reporter dye captured during the assay.

It is the users responsibility to ensure what controls are needed to ensure that the health of themselves and others around them. It is imperative that you **DO NOT** start any work until you are absolutely sure of the appropriate precautions that need to be employed. If you are unsure seek advice from your line/laboratory manager or your departmental safety officer (DSO).

This replaces VI-RA-009

Name of assessor:	Tiphaine Bouriez-Jones	Date of Assessment:	May 2015	Review Date:	Every 3 years
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Risk Matrix:

Risk Matrix		Likelihood			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Consequence	Severe	High	High	Medium	Effectively Zero
	Moderate	High	Medium	Medium/low	Effectively Zero
	Insignificant	Medium/Low	Low	Low	Effectively Zero
	Negligible	Effectively Zero	Effectively Zero	Effectively Zero	Effectively Zero

Risk Assessment:

Hazard (Cause and consequence)	Affected Groups	Existing controls	Risk	Further Action
<p>Infection from exposure to pathogens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Via direct contact with the pathogen (i.e. skin adsorption from splash) - Via spill of material - Via incorrect disposal of waste 	<p>Staff Students and visitors</p>	<p>CL3 biological agents</p> <p>Only trained users who have shown evidence of their experience to the CL3 Safety Officer will have access to the CL3 suite out of hours.</p> <p>Each user is trained to adhere to the CL3 Code of Practice, they will follow the precautions involved with handling and storing pathogens.</p> <p>Every user must double glove, wear a leak-resistant disposable gown and wear safety spectacles whilst working in the suites.</p> <p>The use of sharps is forbidden in the CL3 suites.</p> <p>Out of hours workers must at least have a buddy system in place or work in pairs.</p> <p>Users are familiar with emergency procedures and a spill drill is implemented as a check on measures.</p> <p>A telephone available in each CL3 suite, with up-to-date list of emergency contact details next to it.</p> <p>Waste is autoclaved within the suite, samples will be packaged in tertiary container is they need to be taken outside of the CL3 suite.</p> <p>No engineer is allowed to work out of hours in the CL3 suite.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Bi-yearly checks on the BSC within CL3</p> <p>Yearly checks on BSC in CL2</p>

		<p>CL2 biological agents Users are trained to follow good microbiological practice. They must wear blue labcoat, nitrile gloves and safety spectacles at all time whilst working in CL2.</p> <p>Procedures in case of spill or exposure policies are explained at induction and the policies are displayed in the CL2 laboratories.</p>		
Being trapped in the CL3 suite out of hours (door release mechanism no longer functioning)	Staff Students and visitors	Emergency release of the door mechanism present on each door.	Low	Yearly maintenance service contract
Entering the suites under duress	Staff Students	There is a duress code which can be entered instead of the normal code which will raise the alarm directly to Security Services without the knowledge of the persons entering the suites.	Low	Tested yearly by Facilities
Loss of containment	Staff Students and visitors	An audible alarm is triggered in case of loss of containment to alert users. All users are familiar with the emergency procedure in case of loss of containment: securing their work, leaving the facility without delay and alerting Facility as soon as possible to resolve the issue.	Low	Pressure monitored weekly, yearly maintenance contract.

Exposure to chemicals (Ethanol, Industrialised Methylated Spirit, Virkon)	Staff, students and visitors	<p>Via Inhalation: Where possible stock will only be available in solution, where powder form is unavoidable, users must weigh out and dissolve the chemical in a fume hood.</p> <p>Via skin adsorption: User must wear gloves and labcoat at all time.</p> <p>Via instillation (eye): User must wear safety spectacles at all time.</p> <p>See specific COSHH risk assessment for each chemical.</p>	Medium	Checks on LeV
Exposure to laser beam	Staff, students and visitors	<p>The Luminex system is classified as laser class1 by design are under normal operation the laser should never be exposed.</p> <p>No specific risks exist with the normal operation of the Bio-Plex instrument, provided the covers and lids are in place.</p>	Low	None

Signed By Author:

Approved by (sign and print):

Reviewed by:

Review date: