

NDMRB-RA-118

Risk Assessment: Equipment – recharging batteries

Scope

There are a number of small lab items which require recharging batteries. This commonly takes place overnight and some items define a charge time in the instructions.

It is acceptable to use this type of equipment in the NDMRB however, there are checks which must be carried out as outlined in this RA to ensure the safe use and recharging of this equipment. The types of batteries used in these items varies in type and therefore the checks are applicable to all types of rechargeable items.

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).

Name of assessor:	Andrea Keepence-Keyte	Date of Assessment:	Oct 2017	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
Items being left on charge overnight unattended – if the batteries are old and unchecked can give rise to fire hazard	Staff, students and visitors	Items which are powered by rechargeable batteries that are left on overnight must have an annual PAT test and an annual health check of the batteries. Batteries must be replaced at least every 5 years and must be changed if they are found to be degraded in any way.	Medium	Annual checks on equipment. All rechargeable equipment to be identified as “High risk” on the PAT register
Items being left on charge overnight unattended – all electrical equipment must not be charged near water sources		All electrical equipment should not be plugged in near water sources. The only exception to this rule is water baths which are plugged in to switches which are well above the sinks.		None

Signed By Author:

Approved by (sign and print):

Reviewed by:

Review date: