

**Risk Assessment: Use of Cold Rooms**

Working in cold rooms is acceptable, however, there are risks associated with working at low temperatures for a length of time and using any electrical equipment in a cold room. This risk assessment aims to provide guidance to end users to work in a safe manner.

Carried out by: Samantha Thulborn	Date carried out: April 2014	Review Date: April 2015 – Reviewed – No changes made.
		Review Date: April 2016

Hazard (Cause and consequence)	Affected Group	Existing controls	Risk	Further Action Required
Temperature – Cold rooms run at approx. 4°C, risk of hypothermia	Staff Students	Use appropriate PPE, thermal overalls and gloves when working at low temperatures for a long period of time. Take regular breaks from the cold room.	Medium	None
Electrical Equipment – short circuiting of electrical components due to condensation – potential electrocution	Staff Students	Equipment must be fitted with plugs which are compatible with damp proof sockets. Equipment to be PAT tested before and after use in cold room.	Medium	None
Electrical Equipment – short circuiting of electrical components due to condensation – potential electrocution	Staff Students	Equipment must be visually checked each time it is used for obvious signs of defects such as loose cable grips, plugs incorrectly fitted, unsafe cable joints, damaged cable, signs of burning/overheating, wrong value fuses (remember Amps=Watts/Volts). After electrical equipment is removed from the cold rooms they should be allowed to warm up and dry out before using – this will take several hours and it is recommended that it is left over night at room temperature.	Medium	None



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		Where possible only low voltage equipment should be used within the rooms.		
Microbial growth – exposure risks to users health	Staff Students	Any spillage must be dealt with immediately & appropriately.	Medium/Low	None
Microbial growth – exposure risks to users health	Staff Students	Lab manager must routinely arrange for the floor & bench tops to be cleaned and disinfected (at least once every 3 months). Groups & Users must routinely clean & disinfect their shelving, boxes & other materials they utilise. They must routinely carry out a disposal of old samples etc. This should be at least once every 6 months.	Medium/Low	None
Work at height – danger of falling and falling items	Staff Students	No item greater than 5Kgs is allowed to be stored on the top shelf. Access to the top shelf must be via a suitable step. Items stored on the top shelf should only require access on a limited basis	Medium/Low	None