



Risk Assessment – VI-RA-008- IFNa induction

Scope

The interferon (IFN) system is an extremely powerful antiviral response that is capable of controlling most, if not all, virus infections in the absence of adaptive immunity. However, viruses can still replicate and cause disease in vivo, because they have some strategy for at least partially circumventing the IFN response. The mechanistic basis for the early block(s) to infection is unknown, as is the identity of the participating antiviral factor(s).

Carried out by:	Tiphaine Bouriez-Jones	Date carried out:	May 2015	Review Due:	May 2018
Hazard (Cause and consequence)	Affected Groups	Existing controls		Risk	Further actions
Asphyxiation in oxygen deficient atmospheres.	Staff Students Visitors	Oxygen level sensors and air change extraction system.		High	Regular checks of oxygen sensor system and extraction system to reduce chance of failure
Over pressurisation from the large volume expansion of the liquid. If liquid nitrogen enters sample vials during storage, the vials when removed from the liquid nitrogen can become rapidly over pressurised and explode in the face of the user.	Staff Students	It is imperative that a face shield and safety glasses are worn when handling samples that have been stored in the cryostorage units. Storage racks are being modified to prevent the storage of samples in the liquid phase.		High	Regular checks on the integrity of the face shield. Monitoring use of face shield
Cold burns, frostbite and hypothermia from the intense cold	Staff Students	Eye protection, glasses or face shield (dependant on splashing risk), closed shoes, lab coats and cryo gloves must be worn when handling liquid nitrogen.		Medium	PPE are checked on a regular basis by Facilities



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<p>Release or exposure to biological pathogens within the cryogenic facility</p>	<p>Staff, students and visitors</p>	<p>CL3 samples must be prepared in Biological Safety Cabinet and be placed in “Mr Frosty” prior to freezing in a -80 within the CL3 facility. After 24hr vials can be transferred to the cryogenic facility. The outside of the container must be sprayed with 70% IMS before it can be brought out of containment.</p> <p>CL2 Biological agents will also be frozen using the same technique, since most of the NDMRB are CL2 laboratories, there is no change of containment when entering the cryogenic facility.</p> <p>Users must refer to the Biological COSHH assessment prior to starting work to understand the precautions associated with the microorganism that will be used.</p> <p>In case of accidental release of biological material, the cryogenic facility will be shut, until the room has been fully decontaminated and the BSO will decide when the facility is safe to re-open.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Infection from exposure to pathogens - Via direct contact with the pathogen (i.e. skin adsorption from splash) - Via spill of material - Via incorrect disposal of waste</p>	<p>Staff Students and visitors</p>	<p>CL3 biological agents 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. 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>Medium</p>	<p>Bi-yearly checks on the BSC within CL3</p> <p>Yearly checks on BSC in CL2</p>



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		<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 if 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>CL2 biological agents</p> <p>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	<p>An audible alarm is triggered in case of loss of containment to alert users.</p> <p>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.</p>	Low	Pressure monitored weekly, yearly maintenance contract.



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Injury due to misuse or faulty equipment	Staff Students and visitors	All users are trained in the correct operation of instruments. Specialised equipment such as centrifuges and incubators are under maintenance service contract.	Low	Incubators and centrifuges serviced yearly
Exposure to chemicals (Ethanol, Industrialised Methylated Spirit, Virkon)	Staff, students and visitors	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. Via skin adsorption: User must wear gloves and labcoat at all time. Via instillation (eye): User must wear safety spectacles at all time. See specific COSHH risk assessment for each chemical.	Medium	Checks on LeV

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).