Chlorine Dioxide Gas is Now Approved for the Decontamination of Biological Safety Cabinets

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Chlorine Dioxide Gas has been approved by NSF International under Annex G of NSF/ANSI 49 for the decontamination of Biological Safety Cabinets (BSCs). Chlorine Dioxide Gas now joins formaldehyde as the only formally approved methods for decontaminating BSCs. Without some of the drawbacks of formaldehyde, including its need for residual clean up and its status as a carcinogen, chlorine dioxide gas has many of its benefits. It is easily distributed throughout the BSC due to its gaseous nature, has good penetrability, and has the proper sporicidal activity. The total time for decontamination is also much shorter, a cycle which generally went overnight with formaldehyde only takes 90 minutes when using chlorine dioxide gas.

Testing proved successful as Chlorine Dioxide Gas passed all requirements set forth in the validation protocol by NSF International. In all trials, no material degradation or residues were noticed within the BSCs used. Both Type A and Type B BSCs were used in the validation study, both being shown to be compatible with Chlorine Dioxide Gas and its decontamination process. Chlorine Dioxide gas was shown to be effective in penetrating and decontaminating HEPA filters, as well as the entirety of the Biological Safety Cabinet. As such, Chlorine Dioxide Gas has been approved under Annex G of NSF/ANSI 49 to be used in the decontamination of Biological Safety Cabinets.

New Report—National Science Advisory Board

The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) has issued a new Report on Outreach and Education entitled "Strategic Plan for Outreach and Education on Dual Use Research Issues." The NSABB was established by the government to advise Federal departments and agencies on ways to minimize the possibility that knowledge and technologies emanating from life sciences research will be misused to threaten public health or other aspects of national security. Among other aspects of its charge, the NSABB was asked to provide recommendations on developing programs of outreach and education on dual use research issues for all scientists and laboratory workers at federally-funded institutions. The report can be found at:

http://oba.od.nih.gov/biosecurity/PDF/FinalNSABBReportonOutreachandEducationDec102008.pdf

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health
Office of Biotechnology Activities; Recombinant DNA Research:

Proposed Actions Under the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines)
AGENCY: National Institutes of Health (NIH), PHS, DHHS.
ACTION: Notice of consideration of a proposed action under the *NIH Guidelines*.

If you would like more information on the biosafety aspects of research with recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules and other aspects covered in the federal Register, please go to the ABSA web site at: http://absa.org/pdf/090304NSABB.pdf