

BIOSAFETY CABINETS (BSCs)

Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs) protect laboratory workers and the immediate lab environment from infectious aerosols generated within the cabinet.

- Lab workers utilizing the biosafety cabinet should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Lab coats must be buttoned or closed in the back if tied for greater protection. Gloves should be pulled over the wrists of lab coats, not worn inside the sleeve.

Before using any biosafety cabinet (BSC), lab workers should:

- Prepare a written checklist of materials necessary for a particular activity and place only necessary materials in the BSC before beginning work.
- Turn off any overhead room germicidal ultraviolet light (UV) and any BSC UV lights.
- Confirm that the BSC is operating properly prior to beginning work by checking airflow gauges.
- Adjust the stool height so that armpits are level with the bottom of the view screen or sash.



OSHA Standard 1910.1030(e)(2)(iii)(A) *Certified biological safety cabinets (Class I, II, or III) or other appropriate combinations of personal protection or physical containment devices(...) shall be used for all activities with other potentially infectious materials that pose a threat of exposure to droplets, splashes, spills, or aerosols.*

- Only materials and equipment needed for the immediate work should be placed in the biosafety cabinet.
- Perform all operations on the work surface of the biosafety cabinet at least 4 inches from the front grille. Do not block the front grille with papers or other materials.
- Immediately following the manipulation of infectious agents in the BSC, decontaminate surfaces and the BSC contents with the appropriate solution and contact time necessary for the infectious agents being used.

Discussion

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What are some of the best practices for operations performed using the BSC?

What techniques reduce splatter and aerosol generation?