Working Safely with Laminar Flow Cabinet

Work in the laboratory can be tedious and repetitive, and sometimes personnel tend to neglect the safety practices and protocols. These essential tips are part of good laboratory practices (GLP) to adhere to when working with laminar flow cabinets.

- **Safety starts with you.**

**Do Not Confuse a Laminar Flow Cabinet with a Biosafety Cabinet**

Laminar flow cabinets can look very similar to biosafety cabinets, but they only protect samples inside the work zone from external airborne contamination. They do not protect the operator. Only the biosafety cabinet has a biohazard logo. Read the label on your cabinet carefully before working.

**Allow the Purge Cycles**

Leave the blower on for at least 3 minutes before & after use to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

**Do Not Place Your Body Parts Directly Above Sensitive Samples if Working with a Vertical LFC**

This may be a possible cause of product contamination.

**Identify the Proper Location for the Cabinet**

External airflow disturbances (doors, excessive human traffic, windows, diffusers, air conditioner outlets) can compromise containment. Minimize disturbances to the airflow barrier.

**Stop Using the Cabinet When Alarms are Activated**

Call your local representative for immediate service.

**Do Not Store Your Stuff Inside the Cabinet**

Overloading the cabinet with unnecessary items can affect the cabinet’s airflow and containment.

**Only Sterile Materials Should Be Placed Inside the Clean Work Area**

Make sure that all your items are disinfected properly to avoid possible contamination of the workbench.

**Do Not Use Bunsen Burner Inside the Cabinet**

The resulting buoyancy effect will affect the cabinet’s airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

**Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Properly**

Wearing a back-fastened lab coat (to protect the operator from splashes) as well as double gloving (over the cuffs) should be practiced.

**Do Not Spray Anything to the Back Wall**

This can damage the HEPA/ULPA filter and cause leakage.

**Only Arms and Hands are Allowed Inside the Work Zone**

Operator must always bear in mind that head and shoulders should not be inside the work zone, and doing so might potentially contaminate the samples.

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