

**EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE****23.1 PURPOSE**

To insure that equipment in the Forensic Biology Unit is working properly.

**23.2 RESPONSIBILITY**

Forensic Science Examiners in the Forensic Biology Unit. Ordering information is maintained in a log book in the Forensic Biology Unit. For additional information, refer to the Equipment Inventory in Appendix 2.

**23.3 DEFINITIONS**

NIST: National Institute of Standards and Technology

**23.4 PROCEDURE****23.4.1: General Information**

- A. All equipment that requires repair by an outside vendor will be performance checked before it is returned to service and recorded on the appropriate equipment log sheet.
- B. New critical equipment will be performance checked before use and recorded on the appropriate equipment log sheet (newly generated if needed). A memo will be generated by the Lead of the Forensic Biology Unit, or designee, stating that it is acceptable for use and its effective date.
- C. Laboratory Equipment will be cleaned as needed with the appropriate disinfecting solution described in FB SOP-21 (General Chemical and Reagent QC) and according to FB SOP-01 (Physical Evidence Examination).

**23.4.2: Ovens**

- A. Check the temperatures of the ovens weekly using the thermometer placed within each.
- B. The temperature is maintained between 35°C and 39°C.
- C. Temperature, date and initials are recorded on the appropriate Oven Equipment Log Sheet.
- D. If the temperature deviates from this range, adjust the temperature according to manufacturer's instructions as needed and record on the appropriate Oven Equipment Log Sheet.
- E. If the temperature continues to deviate from this range, remove from service until the problem is corrected and record on the appropriate Oven Equipment Log Sheet.
- F. If the temperature is adjusted, a check with a NIST traceable thermometer is conducted before use.

**23.4.3: Refrigerators and Freezers**

- A. Check the temperatures of the refrigerators and freezers weekly.
- B. The refrigerator temperature must be maintained above freezing and no higher than 7°C.
- C. The freezer temperature must be maintained no higher than -10°C.
- D. Temperature, date and initials are recorded on the appropriate Refrigerator or Freezer Equipment Log Sheet.
- E. If the temperature deviates from these ranges, adjust the temperature according to manufacturer's instructions as needed and record on the appropriate Refrigerator or Freezer Equipment Log Sheet.
- F. If the temperature continues to deviate from these ranges, remove from service until the problem is corrected and record on the appropriate Refrigerator or Freezer Equipment Log Sheet.
- G. The upright freezer located in room 1-186 of the main Forensic Biology Lab will be considered an extension of the walk-in-freezer since they are both located in the same room. Therefore, no separate LIMS storage is required (i.e. samples stored in this upright freezer will be transferred into "freezer storage" in LIMS).

**23.4.4: Thermometers**

- A. Check the thermometers from each unit yearly against a NIST traceable thermometer. The temperatures must read within  $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the NIST thermometer.
  - 1. NIST freezer thermometer:  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$
  - 2. NIST refrigerator thermometer:  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$
  - 3. NIST oven thermometer:  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $110^{\circ}\text{C}$
- B. Place the thermometers with the appropriate NIST traceable thermometer as follows:
  - 1. The freezer thermometers into the walk-in freezer.
  - 2. The refrigerator thermometers into the walk-in refrigerator.
  - 3. The oven thermometers into one (1) oven.
  - 4. Leave the thermometers overnight.
- C. Date, initials and results are recorded on the appropriate Thermometer Equipment Log Sheet.
- D. If the temperature deviates from the range, remove the thermometer from service and replace. Record on the appropriate Thermometer Equipment Log Sheet.

- E. NIST traceable thermometers are stored in a designated cabinet at room temperature and replaced five (5) years from the manufacturer's initial calibration date.

**23.4.5: Micropipets**

- A. Micropipets are used in Forensic Biology for non-critical measurements.
- B. The micropipets are serviced yearly by an outside vendor and recorded on the equipment and on the appropriate Micropipet Equipment Log Sheet.
- C. If a micropipet is repaired off-site, conduct a performance check of the micropipet before use as follows:
1. Weigh the smallest and the largest volumes of dH<sub>2</sub>O dispensed with that particular model on the Top Loader balance.
  2. Repeat the measurement 10 times for each volume tested and note the total weight according to the appropriate Micropipet Equipment Log Sheet.
  3. Date, initials and results are recorded on the appropriate Micropipet Equipment Log Sheet.
- D. If the unit does not meet the following specifications, remove from service and record on the appropriate Micropipet Equipment Log Sheet.
1. 10µl micropipet  $\pm 10\%$  @ 1µl and 10µl
  2. 20µl micropipet  $\pm 10\%$  @ 2µl and 20µl
  3. 100µl micropipet  $\pm 10\%$  @ 10µl and  $\pm 5\%$  @ 100µl
  4. 200µl micropipet  $\pm 10\%$  @ 20µl and  $\pm 5\%$  @ 200µl
  5. 1000µl micropipet  $\pm 5\%$  @ 100µl and 1000µl

**23.4.6: Alternate Light Sources**

- A. Crime-lites
1. Check known stains (semen, saliva, urine and blood) weekly for fluorescence or stain detection under selected Crime-lite/wavelength. Note: Crime-lite(s) used less often than weekly may be checked before each use.
  2. Date, sample, Crime-lite, initials and result are recorded on the appropriate Crime-Lite Equipment Log Sheet.
  3. If stains are not fluorescent or visible under these Crime-lites/wavelength(s), remove from service until problem is corrected and record on the appropriate Crime-Lite Equipment Log Sheet.

**B. CrimeScopes (Mini and Hand-held)**

1. Check known stains (semen, saliva and urine) before each use for fluorescence under selected wavelength(s).
2. Date of check, sample, wavelength, initials and result are recorded on the appropriate CrimeScope Lights Equipment Log Sheet.
3. If stains are not fluorescent or visible under these wavelength(s), remove from service until problem is corrected and record on the appropriate CrimeScope Lights Equipment Log Sheet.

**23.4.7: Ultrasonic Bath**

- A. Drain, clean bath and replace water quarterly or as often as needed. Fill the tank with dH<sub>2</sub>O one (1) inch from the top. Refill as needed.
- B. Date and initials are recorded on the Ultrasonic Bath Equipment Log Sheet.
- C. If necessary, dH<sub>2</sub>O may be added to the bath before use ensuring the level is approximately one (1) inch from the top of the tank.
- D. If bath fails to work according to manufacturer's instructions, remove from service until problem is corrected and record on the Ultrasonic Bath Equipment Log Sheet.

**23.4.8: Top Loader Balance**

- A. Check the balance quarterly with the appropriate NIST traceable weights at: 80g, 50g, 20g, 10g, 5g and 1g.
- B. Date, initials and results are recorded on the Top Loader Balance Equipment Log Sheet.
- C. If the weight deviates  $\pm 2\%$  of the actual weight, remove from service until the problem is corrected and record on the appropriate Equipment Log Sheet.
- D. The Top Loader Balance is serviced yearly by an outside vendor and recorded on the equipment and on the Top Loader Balance Equipment Log Sheet.

**23.4.9: Microscopes**

The microscopes are serviced yearly by an outside vendor and recorded on the equipment and on the Microscope Equipment Log Sheet.

#### **23.4.10: Hoods**

- A. Generally, venting hoods are serviced yearly by an outside vendor and recorded on the equipment.
- B. Replace filters in non-venting hoods annually and record on the Hood Filter Replacement Equipment Log Sheet.

#### **23.5 REFERENCES**

- A. Boekel Scientific. Boekel Incubator Operating Instructions.
- B. Mettler Toledo. Operating Instructions Line of Balances.
- C. Sears Kenmore. Refrigerator Owner's Guide.
- D. Rainin Instrument CO. INC. Pipetmen Operating Instructions.
- E. Rainin. Pipet-Lite Operating Instructions.
- F. Foster + Freeman. Crime-lite Information Sheets.
- G. Spex Forensics. Mini-CrimeScope Operation Manual v. 2.0.
- H. Fisher Scientific. Operator's Manual Tabletop Ultrasonic Cleaners.
- I. Traulsen. "N-Width" Reach in Refrigerator/Freezer Models/Self-Contained Owner's Manual.