

SOP-E031

Decontaminating CO₂ Incubator

Objective: To disinfect and atone for contamination in an incubator.

Procedure:

1. Remove any cell culture flasks and the water pan. Be sure to dispose any material from the incubator properly. Wash the pan with soap and water.
2. Place approximately ½ cup of paraformaldehyde powder into a weigh boat. Be sure to wear gloves, mask and a lab coat. Paraformaldehyde is very toxic and the fumes are a very potent irritant.
3. Place the weigh boat with the paraformaldehyde in the incubator.
4. Close the incubator doors and let the paraformaldehyde sit for 24 hours. Leave a note on the door of the incubator stating ”**decontamination with paraformaldehyde is in process – do not open**”.
5. After 24 hours, turn the power button off to that particular incubator ONLY. Be sure you are turning off the correct one. CAREFULLY open the door (the fumes will be very strong). Dispose of the paraformaldehyde in a properly labeled waste jar.
6. Leave the door ajar for about ½ hour, or until the fumes have dissipated.
7. Remove the shelves and wash with soap and water.
8. Autoclave the pan and the shelves.
9. Spray the inside of the incubator with 80% ethanol.
10. Spray the shelves with 80% ethanol right before putting them back into the incubator.
11. Allow fumes to dissipate, turn power button back on.
12. Allow the temperature and CO₂ to recover.
13. Check CO₂ with Fyrite.

Created by: Kathy Ragheb **Date:** 03-08-06

Verified by: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name

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