

**National Institutes of Health  
Office of Research Services  
Division of Occupational Health and Safety**

**Protocol for Certification, Maintenance,  
and Decontamination of Containment Equipment**



**Technical Assistance Branch**

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**National Institutes of Health  
Office of Research Services  
Division of Occupational Health and Safety**

**PROTOCOL FOR CERTIFICATION, MAINTENANCE,  
AND DECONTAMINATION OF CONTAINMENT EQUIPMENT**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Office of Research Services, [Division of Occupational Health and Safety](#) provides various services to the NIH regarding biological safety cabinets, animal care modules, chemical fume hoods, local exhaust ventilation devices, and all high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered equipment. These services are provided to all of the NIH, including off-campus buildings, through a contract administered by the Technical Assistance Branch TAB). Services are provided on an annual and as-needed basis to ensure that the containment equipment is functioning properly.

## **2.0 SERVICES**

The TAB provides the following certification, maintenance, and decontamination services.

- a. Certification of chemical fume hoods, including inspection and / or verification of air capture velocities.
- b. Certification of local exhaust ventilation (canopy hoods, downdraft tables, and sinks, slot hoods, etc.), including inspection and /or verification of air capture velocities.
- c. Certification and maintenance of biological safety cabinets, horizontal laminar flow hoods, animal care modules, and all other HEPA filtered devices. When appropriate, the testing includes:
  1. Leak testing of HEPA filters
  2. Leak testing of biological safety cabinets
  3. Velocity profile measurements
  4. Replacement of HEPA filters
  5. Electrical testing
  6. Replacement of parts and repairs
- d. Decontamination of biological safety cabinets for moving, repairing, or replacing filters.
- e. Decontamination of systems, laboratories, or other large spaces on an as-needed basis for pathogens of human concern.