Title: SAFETY, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE BASIL 4601 CAGE/RACK WASHER AND THE BASIL 3500 CAGE/BOTTLE WASHER

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1.0 OBJECTIVE

1.1 To outline procedures for operating, routine maintenance and safety procedures concerning the Basil 4601 Cage/Rack washer and the Basil 3500 Cage/Bottle washer in the Godley Snell Research Center Animal Care Facility. Prior to use, all personnel and student workers that will be utilizing the cage washers are required to be trained on the operation of the units and the emergency safety procedures associated with them.

2.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.1 Use extreme care if there is visible steam and water dripping from units ceiling. Do not enter the walk in unit until steam has exhausted and water is no longer dripping from ceiling.

2.2 If you are in the cage/rack washer and it begins operation, pull on one of the two horizontal safety cables on either side of the washer. This will immediately stop the cycle and the unit will alarm. Either door can be opened by applying force at the “PUSH HERE” sign on the doors. De-activate the alarm by pushing “Alarm Reply” on the control panel.

2.3 If you are outside the unit and need to stop it, press the “STOP/RESET” button located on the control panel.

3.0 PERSONNEL/TRAINING/RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Personnel who have not been trained in these procedures must schedule training with a Laboratory Animal Care Supervisor or Director of Operations before utilizing this equipment.

4.0 PROCEDURES FOR OPERATION

4.1 Both cage washers are located in room 130.
4.2 Dirty cages are taken to the dirty side of the cage wash area (room 103A) after animal change outs. Boxes are dumped of all bedding and debris, cages are pre-cleaned as necessary before loading into cage washer. No solid debris should be adhered to the cages.

4.3 Load dirty cages into selected cage washer.
   4.3.1 When loading boxes/cages into washer note that the large pass thru rack washer does not have jets that emit water from the bottom of the unit. Any item in that unit will be washed from the side or top.
   4.3.2 The bottle washer does have jets that emit water from the bottom, and boxes, bottles etc., can be placed up-side down.
   4.3.3 Do not stack or overlap items as to prevent them from full contact of the water spray, e.g. sipper tubes and enrichment devices.
   4.3.4 Large trays (rabbit pans, transport cage pan) can be placed in the side racks of the large rack washer with the dirty side facing the water jets.

4.4 Place a Temperature Tape 180 in the cage washer in an area that will make contact with the water.

4.5 Select the desired washer cycle and follow the control panel instructions to start the machine.

4.6 Observe the washer to assure that it has begun its cycle.

4.7 Machine will chime when cycle is complete.
   4.7.1 Caution! Dripping water, air and clean items will be very hot!
   4.7.2 Open door on the clean side of the washer (room 130B) and allow to cool before removing clean items.
   4.7.3 Move clean items to drying rack before stacking on shelving or adding bedding.

4.8 Remove Temperature Tape 180 and place in washer log book on the corresponding washers’ page and date.

4.9 Washer is now ready for next load to be washed.

5.0 ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

5.1 Daily
   5.1.1 Remove any debris from sump.
   5.1.2 Check for proper operational steam pressure as noted on the washer steam line.
   5.1.3 Assure washer begins cycle when it activated.
   5.1.4 Assure carriage is operating.

5.2 Monthly
   5.2.1 Clean filters
   5.2.2 Grease bottle washer carriage
   5.2.3 Check chemical levels (chemical barrels are located in room 113 on the dock). Order replacement chemicals as needed.

5.3 Quarterly
   5.3.1 Washers are inspected and calibrated by an outside source to assure the temperatures and chemical levels are accurate for proper operation.