Guideline for Cytotoxic and ABSL2 Waste Handling

General Requirement

- User/Researcher should paste respective warning sticker (see below) on the cage if they introduce any drugs, chemicals, or biological agents into experimental animals.
- Safety Officers must inform and highlight to all impacted staff any IACUC approved use of cytotoxic drugs, unknown or novel chemical compound testing or biological agents or toxins requiring ABSL2 containment.
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be made available to everyone whenever possible.

PPE Requirement

- Disposable gloves
- Face masks
- Bouffant caps
- Surgical gowns

Procedures

Animal Holding Rooms

1) Users introducing any drugs, chemicals or biological agents into experimental animals must highlight the date of administration on respective cage card to alert the technicians’ in-charge.

2) Relevant warning sticker signs (refer to Appendix 1) must be pasted on the cage card obtainable from BRC technicians.

3) These cages are to be changed not earlier than 3 days after introduction of the cytotoxic chemicals / drugs / agents or as advised by specific protocols.

4) Technicians are to don up complete PPE (double gloves, face masks, bouffant caps, surgical gowns) when changing these cages in fume hood.

5) Soiled beddings will be scrapped and dumped into double-bagged yellow biohazard bags or purple cytotoxic bags.

6) The soiled cages will be sprayed with 1:18:1 Clidox or 1% bleach (to detoxify drugs and decontaminate biological agents) and wiped with paper towels. Spray the cages again with 1:18:1 Clidox or 1% bleach, and leave for contact time without wiping.

7) Place the cages, scrappers, and double-bagged wastes into plastic containers provided, and wheel them into airlock (applicable to Department 3) or washing area (applicable to Department 2) for the staff in dirty area to take over.
Dirty Area (Department 3) / Washing Room (Department 2)

8) Staff must don up complete PPE (double gloves, face masks, bouffant caps, surgical gowns) when handling cages, scrappers and wastes that come in plastic containers.

9) The cages will be washed as per normal operation.

10) The biohazard waste will be held in the cold storage area while waiting to be sent for autoclaving.

11) The cytotoxic waste will be held in the cold storage room while waiting to be collected by approved contractor for offsite incineration. DO NOT AUTOCLAVE CYTOTOXIC WASTE!

12) Scrappers are to be washed and fumigated (for Department 3) or surface decontaminated (for Department 2) before the technicians can re-use them.

Samples of Warning Sign Sticker