

Policy on Verification of Sanitization	Policy No. IACUC-018 Effective Date: 02/09/2026
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1. Reference(s):

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC, 2011, pp. 70-73

American Dairy Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science, and the Poultry Science Association. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*. Fourth Edition. Champaign, IL. 2020, pp. 20-21 and 25-26.

Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544, 1966, as amended [7 U.S.C. 2131 *et. Seq.*]); and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1-3.

2. Purpose: To provide guidance for the verification of sanitation of items used in animal research settings. Federal regulations provide a requirement for routine sanitation of surfaces contacted by animals. Monitoring of these practices is *strongly recommended* and is best practice.

3. Policy: All items directly contacting animals (e.g., enclosures, enrichment, feed/hydration systems, behavioral equipment, etc.) must be sanitized on a regularly occurring schedule and must be sanitized between uses as described in the IACUC approved Animal Care and Use Protocol (ACUP) if deviating from standard husbandry practices or using special equipment. All facilities housing animals for research must possess a sanitation SOP that outlines guidelines for sanitation, including methods, frequency, and validation.

3.1. Manual sanitation processes will be validated using Organic Debris Testing on at least a semiannual basis while items are actively in use.

3.1.1. Validation will be provided by OSU University Research Compliance (URC) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) staff for areas outside Animal Resources. IBC staff will perform sanitation validation inspections at least semiannually.

3.1.2. Frequency of validation for areas housing animals periodically must be defined in the SOP for that location as it may be appropriate to modify frequency based on how often animal will be housed in that space.

3.1.3. Validation thresholds for “passing” may vary depending on material types.

3.2. Aquatic and Agricultural facilities are exempt from sanitation validation requirements unless in biomedical research ACUPs. However, these facilities are required to possess a sanitation SOP that outlines sanitation methods, frequency, and validation. Visual inspection of equipment may be used to determine cleanliness in these circumstances.