



TITLE: Validation of Food and Special Diet

SOP Category: Gnotobiotic

CMR SOP #: 4.10

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Effective Date: 2/4/25

Approval: *LaTisha V. Moody, DVM, DACLAM*

Revisions: 3/16/2022, 9/13/2024, 1/23/2025

SCOPE:

This document describes the procedures to be followed when Gnotobiotic diet is packed. This SOP applies to all Animal Care Staff (ACS), ACS Supervisors (ACSS), Veterinary Staff (VS), and Research Staff members (RS) at the Rutgers University Gnotobiotic facilities.

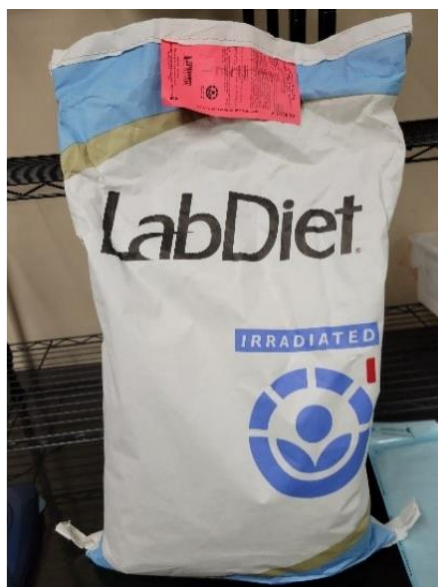
OBJECTIVE:

The objective is to validate the sterilization process of packaged rodent diets.

PROCEDURES:

Validating the MSB walk-in Autoclave for Autoclavable Diet in Sterilization Pouches

1. The current Gnotobiotic Core rodent diet is LabDiet JL Rat and Mouse/Auto/Irradiated 6F 5KAI which is an extruded diet specially formulated to be autoclaved.



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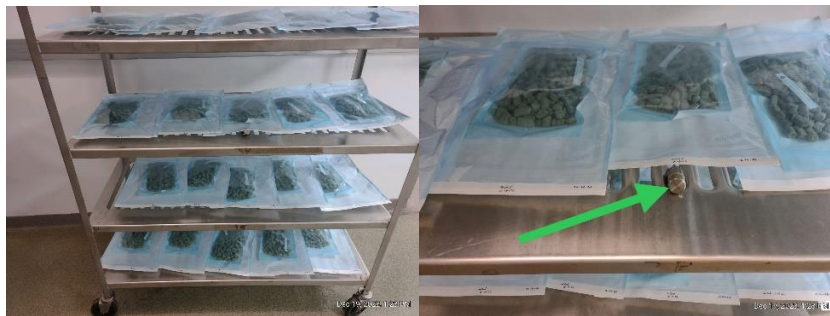
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3. The diets are stored in MSB clean side food storage area (room A648B). Transfer a bag of food on a cart and bring into the prepping area.
4. Put on all required PPE before entering the gnotobiotic area.
5. Cut open the top of the bag of food with clean scissors then cut the inner part of the bag.
6. Using a clean measuring beaker, pour the food into the autoclavable pouches. If using the Covetrus 10.5" x 17" sterilization pouch fill them with 500 grams of feed or if using backup Medline 8" x 16" sterilization pouch fill with 400 grams of feed.



7. All full pouches of food are placed in a 2nd 12" x 18" sterilization pouch.
8. Load all the pouches on the rack with a data logger.



9. The bags are autoclaved on dry cycle #07 GB CAGES for 40 minutes of sterilization time for MSB bulk walk-in and Gnotobiotic autoclave.
10. Once the cycle is completed, remove and download the data logger information to ensure the cycle reached the correct temperature. Please refer to SOP # 4.32 *How to use the Data Logger*.
11. Do not use the food before the validation is completed by the data logger information.

Validation of Special Diet

1. Gnotobiotic researchers may utilize special formulated diet.
2. It's recommended to utilize double irradiated diet or single irradiated autoclavable diet for gnotobiotic animals.

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3. If the researcher requires the diet to be tested, they can make a request in iLab.

External diagnostic laboratory testing

1. The Gnotobiotic feed is tested annually for nutrients analysis.
2. Use one autoclaved pouch containing 500g of sterilized feed for testing submission.
3. The Feed submission will be sent to Eurofins Lab.
Log in to Eurofins Product testing portal
email (rp1304@research.rutgers.edu)
Password: GnotoNewark