



## RUAC STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

**TITLE: SPH Operation and Maintenance of Autoclaves**

**SOP Category: Facilities**

**RUAC SOP #: 2.14**

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**Effective Date: 11/8/2021**

**Approval:** *Lisa Antonucci*

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### SCOPE:

This SOP covers the use, operation, and maintenance of the vivarium autoclaves in the SPH cage wash area.

### OBJECTIVE:

This SOP establishes the procedures for the vivarium autoclaves in SPH.

### PROCEDURE:

**Autoclaves** – Autoclaves are used to sterilize caging after it has been sanitized and to decontaminate bio-hazardous cages prior to disposing of animal bedding waste.

SPH has two autoclaves: a larger rack size autoclave for autoclaving caging (shoe box cages, wire bars, and MI tops) and a smaller autoclave (Amsco Century) for autoclaving shoe box cages, water bottles food, biohazard cages.

Power and steam are supplied to both autoclaves from 7 am to 7 pm.

#### **Operation of Large Rack Autoclave**

**Do not operate the rack autoclave until you have received training in its operation, and the safety features specific to the machine. Training covers:**

- 1. How to exit the machine should you be accidentally trapped inside**
- 2. Use of emergency shut off safety devices for the machine. Training will be conducted and documented by the manager or supervisor.**

The Large Rack Autoclave has two doors- one for loading and one for unloading. The large autoclave load side is in clean cage wash. The unload side is in the sterile holding room.

- Enter clean cage wash
  - Unseal the door by pressing “Unseal Door” button



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- Press the “Open Door” button to open the door
  - Place/roll items to be autoclaved into the chamber
  - Shut door by pressing “Close Door” button
  - Press “Seal Door” button wait until the door is seal correctly
  - Select Cycle – Most items are autoclaved on a pre-vac cycle
  - Vac
  - Pre-Vac- Cages
  - Gravity
  - Autoclave has an audible notification when load is finished
  - Enter sterile holding room to open the door and unload autoclave
  - After cycle is finished, allow sufficient time for steam to dissipate
  - Press “Open Door” button to open the door
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- Remove item(s) using the heat resistant gloves and allow to cool before using.
  - Close door by pressing “Close Door” button and reseal by pressing “Sea Door” button so door can be opened on the clean side cage wash to enter next load. Follow steps above for closing and sealing door.

### Small Autoclave –Amsco Century

### Small Autoclave –Amsco Century

The small autoclave can be loaded and unloaded on the same side. It can be accessed either from dirty cage wash or clean cage wash, depending on what is being autoclaved.

#### Operation of Small Autoclave

- When autoclaving bio-hazard cages access from the dirty side cage wash, Unseal the door by pressing “Unseal Door” button, then press the “Open Door” button to open the door
- Load items using the custom dolly cart:
  - Load items on cart.
  - Wheel the cart in front of the autoclave interlocking metal latches, into the opening in floor of autoclave.



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- Slide top of cart with supplies to be autoclaved into autoclave.
- Unlatch cart from autoclave by pulling release lever.
- Wheel cart away from area.
- Close door by pressing the “Close Door” button
- Seal the door by pressing the “Seal Door” button
- Select the cycle you going to use (press “Select Cycle” button
- Press “Start Cycle” button
  
- When cycle is complete the machine will beep twice, and the display will indicate “cycle complete”.
- Open door (press “Open Door” button) and using cart in the reverse sequence as described above.
- Remember to use the heat resistant gloves when unloading the items



### Maintenance/Repairs for both autoclaves

- RV Industries performs preventative maintenance (PM) on the autoclaves.
- Repairs are scheduled and coordinated with RV industries through the RUACsupervisors, RUACmanager and/or the RUACAssistant Director of Operations.

### REFERENCES:

Steris Autoclave Manual

Amsco Century Autoclave Manual