



Environmental Monitoring

Biosecurity is a concept that should encompass entry of animals into the facility, treatment of materials that come into contact with animals and management of human-animal contact. Environmental Monitoring provides a proactive approach to identifying and excluding harmful factors that may affect the health of your animal colonies. Both microbiology and PCR are employed to detect bacteria, viruses or parasites.

Water Testing

Water testing indicates if animals have been exposed to unwanted pathogens harbored in their drinking water, and water sterility testing is especially important for facilities that house immunodeficient animals. Testing may be performed on your public water source, water post-filtration (or other decontaminating process), and individual rooms at the sink and lixit level.

Feed and Bedding Testing

Feed and bedding may be tested periodically, or anytime you change vendors. Testing these materials provides secondary confirmation (in addition to autoclave tape and spore strips) that your autoclave is sterilizing. Potential pathogens may also live in loose-feed and bedding bins. Swabs are provided for testing all of these focus areas.

Surface Testing

RODAC™ (Replicate Organism Detection and Counting) plates may be submitted to quantify the amount of microbial colonies present in a given area. The agar in a RODAC™ plate protrudes above the plate wall, enabling the growth medium to be pressed directly against flat surfaces such as facility walls and floors. Colony enumeration allows you to judge the efficacy of your cleaning techniques. Charles River also accepts swabs for surface testing.

Testing Programs

- Water
- Feed and bedding
- Surfaces
- Facility
- Post-contamination

Methods

- Microbiology
- Infectious Disease PCR

**Facility review and program design
offered free of charge**

Facility Testing

Monitoring your facility's environment measures the effectiveness of your cleaning and biosecurity practices. Areas that may be screened include the surfaces of drains, walls, floors, work stations, laminar flow hoods, light switches, door handles, and washed cages. Plates and/or swabs can be used to monitor these areas of critical use. We are available to review a facility floor plan and make sample site recommendations upon request.

Post-Contamination Response Testing

Preparing an animal room to go on-line following a microbiologic break is a daunting task. Convincing yourself it is thoroughly decontaminated is equally difficult. A variety of environmental monitoring methods should be utilized to confirm the effectiveness of your recycle procedures. The first assessment should follow surface decontamination. Surface swabs are processed using pathogen-specific PCR targeting the agent that caused the break. For clients who would like sample site recommendations, we are available to point out areas of potential contamination after reviewing a facility floor plan marked with animal traffic flow.

To request free shipping materials or a cost estimate, visit us online at www.criver.com/info/quotes.

