

SOP: **EQ-05**

Title: **Rack Washer Operation and Maintenance –  
Volker Facility**

SOP Last Revision Date:  
12MAY09

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the method for detecting external parasites. This SOP applies to animals housed at the Laboratory Animal Research Core's animal facilities on the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

## **POLICY**

It is LARC policy to meet or exceed all federal, state, local regulations and institutional policies/procedures as they apply to the use of animals in research. Personnel must attend any applicable training in animal care and use, occupational health and safety, equipment operation, and Standard Operating Procedures prior to performing activities outlined in this SOP or work under the direct supervision of a trained LARC staff member.

## **REFERENCES**

- A.** Laboratory Animal Research Core Personnel
- B.** *The Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals "The Guide"*
- C.** *SOP SN-01 Chemical and Biological Monitoring of Facilities and Equipment*

## **PROCEDURES**

### **A. Daily Start Up**

- a. If the power to the machine is not on, turn the power on at the breaker box located on the wall to the right of the washer.
- b. Open control panel door and turn on the power switch.
- c. Check the sump drain located under the floor grating inside of the washer and clear any debris.
- d. Place a temperature label on one item to be washed prior to loading into the washer and close doors to the washers securely.
- e. Select appropriate cycle for the items being washed from the cycle menu.
- f. Push the cycle start button on the control panel.
- g. When the cycle has been completed, unload the washer from the clean side of cage wash and check temperature strip to insure the 3 min.180° final rinse has occurred. Mount temperature strip as described in Section of *SN-01 Chemical and Biological Monitoring of Facilities and Equipment*.

### **B. Cycle Descriptions**

**Detergent Cycle:** Animal (excluding rabbits) caging, water bottles, feeders, etc.

- Pre-Wash with hot water (HTW). Time: **1 minute**
- Detergent Wash - set point (SP) 140° F Time: **2 min.**
- Alkaline Injection (time period for alkaline detergent to be injected during the alkaline wash fill). Time: **20 seconds**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Rinse – SP: 180° F Time: **1 min. 30 sec.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rinse – SP: 180° F Time: **1 min. 30 sec.**
- Final Rinse – Guaranteed 180° F Time: **2 min.**
- Exhaust Time: **1 min.**

## **Acid Cycle 2: Rabbit cages, pans and heavily soiled items**

- Pre-Wash with hot water (HTW). Time: **1 minute**
- Detergent Wash - set point (SP) 140° F Time: **5 min.**
- Alkaline Injection (time period for alkaline detergent to be injected during the alkaline wash fill). Time: **10 seconds**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Rinse – SP: 180° F Time: **1 min. 30 sec.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rinse – SP: 180° F Time: **1 min. 30 sec.**
- Final Rinse – Guaranteed 180° F Time: **2 min.**
- Exhaust Time: **1 min. 30 sec.**

### **C. Shutdown Procedures**

- a. Open control panel and turn power switch off.

### **D. General Maintenance**

- a. Exterior of rackwasher is to be cleaned with stainless steel cleaner at least monthly or more often if needed.
- b. Repairs are to be performed by a qualified technician only!

## **PLEASE READ BELOW**

### **Safety**

**If the door is shut when you are inside the cage wash, there is a red cable that you must pull to stop power to the cage wash. An alarm will sound to notify someone to check the machine. Also, pushing on each door on the right hand side (if you in the washer looking out) will force the door open). If you do not understand how to exit or stop the machine contact your area supervisor immediately for the appropriate REFRESHER training, as initial training is required before operating the rack washer.**