

Biosafety Unit Test Certificate – ESCO safety cabinets

Tests to BS EN 12469:2000, Biotechnology – Performance criteria for microbiological safety cabinets

Extensive testing of the Esco range of microbiological safety cabinets has been undertaken by the Biosafety Unit of the Health Protection Agency Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response. The cabinets below have all been type-tested to the current european standard BS EN 12469:2000, Biotechnology – Performance criteria for microbiological safety cabinets and found to meet the required performance criteria.

HPA Test Certificate	Cabinet Model	Cabinet Name
54-07 F	AC2-3E1	Airstream Class II Biological Safety Cabinet
977-05	AC2-4E1	Airstream Class II Biological Safety Cabinet
54-07 D	AC2-4L1	Airstream Max Class II Biological Safety Cabinet
54-07 A	AC2-6E1	Airstream Class II Biological Safety Cabinet
54-07 E	LA2-3A1	Labculture Class II Type A2 Biological Safety Cabinet
870-03	LA2-4A1	Labculture Class II Type A2 Biological Safety Cabinet
79-08 A	LA2-4L1	Labculture Class II Biological Safety Cabinet
54-07 B	LA2-6A1	Labculture Class II Type A2 Biological Safety Cabinet
54-07 C	LP2-4D1	Labculture Plus Duo Class II Biological Safety Cabinet
79-08 B	LP2-4S1	Labculture Plus Class II Biological safety Cabinet
79-08 C	LP2-6S1	Labculture Plus Class II Biological safety Cabinet
54-07 G	CYT-4AI	Cytoculture Cytotoxic Class II Biological safety Cabinet
986-05	SC2-4A1	Streamline Class II Biological Safety Cabinet

The Health Protection Agency is a national organisation which is dedicated to protecting people's health and reducing the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, poisons and radiation hazards. Formed in 2003 by bringing together expertise in various aspects of public health, including the centre at Porton Down, the Agency has three national Centres, a network of regional laboratories and over 3000 staff.

The Agency derives a significant proportion of its income from commercial activities which include: microbiological, chemical and radiological testing, research and development contracts, custom biopharmaceutical manufacture of biological products, consultancy and training, as well as products including diagnostic kits and therapeutic medicines. The Agency has four culture collections supplying authenticated bacterial, fungal, viral and cell cultures on a global basis.

Core business areas include research and development of vaccines against infectious diseases, process development and GMP manufacture of biologics derived from microbial fermentation - particularly those requiring containment or focused on the bio-defence market. As well as a wide range of services including biosafety, GLP immunoassay and vaccine testing, evaluation of diagnostic tests and in-vivo studies.

The Centre at Porton Down works to improve the UK's emergency response capability by developing the infrastructure for surveillance and early recognition of events. To improve preparedness we run training courses and co-ordinate emergency exercises to provide testing of emergency plans. We produce CBRN guidance for health professionals, as well as bio-security advice to UK, US and European governments and other agencies. As a BS EN ISO 9001:2000 accredited site, the centre works to strict quality standards. The Centre has been at the forefront of containment technology for over 50 years with laboratories handling the full range of pathogenic agents safely at containment levels 2, 3 and 4. This history of specialist work, handling the most hazardous of biological agents, has ensured the centres close involvement in the development of containment technologies, including biological safety cabinets.

Whilst UK British Standards does not provide any accreditation for the testing of safety cabinets, we are the only UK organisation which currently can undertake full performance testing of cabinets to BSEN 12469:2000. The Biosafety Unit and its forerunners at Porton Down have been independently type testing safety cabinets to the British Standard since 1979 and to the European Standard since it was adopted in 2000. The technical experts who carry out this work have many years experience in the routine testing of safety cabinets for internal and external customers, before they are allowed to carry out type testing to the European Standard. The HPA is a major user of safety cabinets of all types and this allows cabinets to be assessed for all aspects of their performance and advice on design and construction to be given. Not all cabinets will pass the type testing carried out at HPA CEPR. When a cabinet fails the customer will be provided with this information and recommendations of how to re-design the cabinet in order to ensure it passes its re-test.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Parks".

Simon Parks
Head Containment testing
Biosafety Unit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara Speight".

Sara Speight
Head Commercial Testing
Biosafety Unit