IACUC Policy for inhalational anesthesia vaporizer preventative maintenance and servicing

Responsible Official: VP for Research Administration
Administering Division/Department: IACUC
Effective Date: 1/7/2009
Last Revision: 1/7/2009

I. Policy
Inhalational anesthetic vaporizers are required to function properly for the administration and use of general inhalational agents on animals at Emory University. The IACUC requires that vaporizers be fully serviced every 3 years by a qualified technician. In addition the IACUC requires preventative maintenance of anesthesia machines be performed and documented annually.

II. Definitions of Key Terms Specific to this Policy
Preventative maintenance includes the evaluation of each piece of equipment involved in the delivery of inhalant anesthetics and removal of waste gases. Trained laboratory personnel can perform the annual preventative maintenance as opposed to a qualified service technician. Equipment used in the delivery of inhalant anesthetics should be evaluated before each use. In addition, documentation of proper function should be done annually. Refer to appendix A.

Servicing of the machine is to be done by a qualified vendor and includes physical inspection of the anesthesia machine and vaporizer and the performance of necessary cleaning, calibration, lubrication, testing, and adjusting of vaporizer parts.

Documentation of maintenance includes information of preventative maintenance and service. Documentation of service must be affixed to each anesthesia machine or vaporizer that is in service. Documentation of preventative maintenance must be available for review. Refer to appendix A.

Qualified technician includes licensed personnel who are trained to service anesthesia vaporizers. Please contact the IACUC office or see the IACUC website for list of suggested vendors.

OSHA Health Care Workers Guidelines/Chapter 5b (http://origin.cdc.gov/niosh/hcwald5b.html) states “equipment must be regularly monitored for leakage, improper design, or tubing defects” in order to prevent the possibility of excess volatile anesthetic leakage into the environment. Acute effects of excess volatile anesthetic in the environment include excessive amounts of gases producing feelings of drowsiness, irritability, depression, headache, nausea, fatigue, and problems of judgment and coordination (OHS 5.1.12.2.1). Chronic effects include embryo toxicity, liver and kidney disease, and cancer. There is a suggested relationship
between exposure to waste gases and increased cancer rates and adverse
effects on reproduction among exposed workers (OHS 5.1.12.2.2).

**Training of Personnel:** Personnel must be trained in the proper use of
anesthetic machines and vaporizer prior to operation, to assure safe handling
of the animals and the anesthetic agent. It is the responsibility of the PI to
ensure adequate training of personnel.

**Appropriate scavenging methods** are important to prevent exposure to
anesthetic or waste gases. Contact the EHSO office for further information.

III. **Applicability**
This policy applies to all Emory research animal activities that fall under the
IACUC’s jurisdiction when using inhalational anesthetic vaporizers to maintain
anesthesia.

IV. **Inhalational anesthesia vaporizer maintenance**
A. **Preventative Maintenance**
1. All equipment pieces involved in the delivery of inhalant anesthetics
must be evaluated to assure proper function. This includes
examination of tubing, hoses, gas connections, cylinder yoke
assemblies, and fittings. While the evaluation should be done at each
use, the check list must be completed annually. A specific evaluation
check list is attached at the end of the document. See Appendix A.

2. Vaporizers must have documentation of preventative maintenance.
Information that must be maintained includes (refer to appendix A):
   i. Date of maintenance test
   ii. Name of person who performed the test
   iii. Test results

3. Discoloration (yellowish-brown) in the “Fill” sight glass of the vaporizer
may be an indicator for the need for service by a qualified vendor.
Other indicators might include cracked or damaged hoses, sticking
valves or knobs, or animals not responding (as anticipated) to the level
of anesthesia provided.

B. **Charcoal Filter Canister Maintenance**
1. To be effective it is required that all charcoal/carbon filter F-Air
canisters in use be monitored for the absorbent of halogenated waste
gases. Monitoring canister absorbent life can be done by following
total hours of use or monitoring the weight of the canister.

2. To monitor by total hours, a log indicating the number of hours used
must be maintained on the side of the canister. The total hours of F-
Air canister in use may not exceed 12 hours as the canister is no
longer effective for absorbing waste gases.

3. To monitor by weight of canister, the baseline weight must be recorded
directly on the canister. After each use or before next use, the canister
must be weighed and value recorded on the canister. When there is a
50gm increase in the initial weight the canister must be discarded as the canister is no longer effective for absorbing waste gases.

4. The canister must be used vertically (do not lay them on their side while in use) and suspended off of the table top or floor if the exhaust ports are in the bottom of the canister.

5. Saturated canisters are considered hazardous chemical waste. Contact the EHSO office for disposal requirements.

C. Vaporizer Servicing

1. The vaporizer must be serviced every three years by a licensed qualified technician. Servicing can include physical inspection of the anesthesia machine and vaporizer, the performance of necessary cleaning, calibration, lubrication, testing, and adjusting of vaporizer parts. If machines are found to be out of calibration (+/- 10%) per the evaluation of the qualified technician, the machines will need to be sent out for service.

2. Vaporizers must have documentation of service. Information that must be maintained includes:
   i. Certification of validation including the date of service

3. Documentation of service must be affixed to each anesthesia machine or vaporizer that is in service.

V. Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarification of Policy</td>
<td>IACUC Office</td>
<td>404-712-0734</td>
<td><a href="mailto:IACUC@emory.edu">IACUC@emory.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance on Posting Policies (technical)</td>
<td>AAIT Web &amp; Communications Team</td>
<td>404-727-5440</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Policies-l@listserv.emory.edu">Policies-l@listserv.emory.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous concerns</td>
<td>Emory Trust Line</td>
<td>1-888-550-8850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate Scavenging methods</td>
<td>EHSO</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.EHSO.emory.edu">www.EHSO.emory.edu</a></td>
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VI. Revision History

N/A
Appendix A

Anesthetic Vaporizer Preventative Maintenance Checklist
Required to be completed annually

Date completed___________________________________________________

Person performing unit check______________________________________

Test results_______________________________________________________

1. Physical examination of the vaporizer for mechanical damage
2. Examination of gas connections and cylinder yoke assemblies to ensure appropriate fittings
3. Inspection of the tubing, fittings, and connections for cracks, breaks, loose connections, or jammed fittings. Use the soap bubble test to check for leaks.
4. Inspection of O2 flush valve for appropriate function
5. Check Fill/Drain system to ensure it operates properly and that there are no leaks. Any discoloration in the fill tank reservoir is indication the machine needs servicing
6. Electrical safety inspection and battery replacement if necessary
7. Verify operation of safety interlock if applicable
8. Verify operation of handwheel lock and release button
9. Verify handwheel turns smoothly through entire range