Is Your IVC Effectively Containing Laboratory Animal Allergens?

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The impact of laboratory animal allergy (LAA) exposure as an occupational hazard has been recognized since the early 1970s and is well documented in LAS trade publications, scientific journal articles, and governmental agency reports. Studies have reported that 20 - 30 percent of lab animal workers experience some form of LAA-related allergic response, from mild reactions like rhinitis, skin and eye irritation, to more severe reactions like ocular, nasal, skin, and laryngeal edema. The direct and hidden costs associated with LAA can be staggering to facilities that conduct laboratory animal research. Depending on the jurisdiction, direct worker compensation claim costs can be extremely high, up to and including total disability. The hidden costs of these cases can be even more severe, with organizations losing highly-trained staff to these illnesses. This loss of knowledge, costs of re-training, increases to insurance costs, and other factors creates significant financial impact, felt ever more strongly in today's challenging economic climate.

Individually ventilated cage systems (IVCs) have been shown in several studies to effectively contain rat and mouse allergens, but can still be a cause for serious concern if they do not perform according to accepted



Above: renderings of various rodent urinary proteins

standards of allergen containment, i.e. exhaust and supply ports maintaining proper polarity both when cages are docked and even when they are not.

Below are two simple tests that can be used to confirm that your IVCs are operating as they should, and that exhaust and supply ports are maintaining proper polarity with cages docked and un-docked. One is the Tissue Test and the other is the Smoke Test.





Check empty slots. If no smoke is exiting exhaust valves, IVC is maintaing correct polarity.

To view a free webinar where these tests will be demonstrated, or to have your sales representative perform these tests in person on your equipment, go to www.allentowninc.com/LAA or scan the QR code to the right.

above, below, and to the left and right, of the cage.

