

Decontamination Advice for Customers

Alpha Laboratories Health and Safety policy dictates that all reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure that pipettes serviced by staff have been decontaminated and that a valid decontamination report is available for each pipette that we work with.

It is therefore essential that a decontamination form report be completed for all instruments that are being serviced. This report should be completed even if the instrument has not been used with toxic or hazardous substances, as this will be our confirmation that our health and safety requirements have been met. The decontamination report should clearly state which substances the pipettes have been used with.

Alpha Laboratories works on the basis that management and staff from the laboratory where the equipment originated have a full understanding of their duty of care under COSHH regulations to protect our technicians from exposure to hazardous substances.

In addition to this we require confirmation that necessary decontamination of pipettes has taken place with regard to the *categorisation of biological agents according to hazard and categories of containment regulations 1995*. It is therefore required that the box on the statement of decontamination is ticked to confirm this.*

The method of decontamination and confidence in the suitability and success of this method in eradicating contaminants should be as a result of a suitable and sufficient risk assessment having been conducted.

Particular attention should be paid to decontaminating pipettes that have been used with:

Blood or serums, body fluids, pathological specimens, carcinogens, toxins, hazardous chemicals or radioactive substances.

Decontamination of pipettes should be carried out prior to Alpha Laboratories staff working on your pipettes.

In the case of pipettes used with radioactive substances, it is essential that you answer the question on pre-dispatch testing of your instrument.

To comply with our health and safety policy, Alpha Laboratories will not be able to service any instruments that we do not have a satisfactory statement of decontamination for. You may use the form supplied by us or use your own providing all necessary details are supplied.

Please ensure that each pipette is accompanied by a valid decontamination statement to ensure that your pipette can be efficiently processed and returned to you without undue delay.

*Alpha Laboratories cannot Service equipment that has been used in a Category 3 or Category 4 Containment Laboratory.