



To: NSF/ANSI 49 Listed Biosafety Cabinet Owners, Users and Safety Personnel
Date: October 15, 2015
Subject: Field Certification of Biosafety Cabinets to NSF/ANSI Standard 49-2014 *Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification*

NSF/ANSI Standard 49 *Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification* was revised in 2010 to change requirements related to direct-connected and canopy connected Type A cabinets. Revisions to the standard eliminated the option of direct-connected Type A cabinets, which had been previously allowed. In addition, an alarm requirement was added for canopy connected Type A cabinets.

At the time, NSF strongly encouraged all organizations employing Class II biosafety cabinets to conduct internal risk assessments of their biosafety cabinet use, explaining that, while newly manufactured cabinets would provide for alarms to be used on canopy connected Type A cabinets, previously manufactured and installed cabinets might not. NSF recommended that all cabinet installations conform to the current requirements of the standard, but was cognizant of the costs associated with bringing older installations into compliance with the 2010 version of Standard 49 (facilities had the potential for considerable unexpected expenses associated with the purchase and installation of canopy connections, alarms, etc.).

In the attached memorandum dated May 17, 2011, NSF required Accredited field certifiers to document the procedures used to field certify biosafety cabinets. The field certifier was expected to follow the most current edition of Standard 49 unless the customer specified otherwise, in which case the field certifier was to document any discrepancies from the current version of the standard in his or her test report for the cabinet.

Several years have passed since the canopy connection and alarm requirements of Standard 49 were revised. NSF hereby announces its intent to withdraw the attached memorandum dated May 17, 2011. Effective April 15, 2016, NSF Accredited field certifiers shall no longer certify either direct-connected Type A cabinets or canopy connected Type A cabinets without alarms, even if specifically asked to do so by the customer. Any NSF Accredited individual who field certifies a direct-connected Type A biosafety cabinet or a non-alarmed canopy connected Type A cabinet after April 15, 2016 will be considered in violation of the NSF Code of Ethics.

For additional information about NSF/ANSI Standard 49, please contact your NSF Accredited Biosafety Cabinet Field Certifier or NSF International (800-NSF-MARK).

Sincerely,

Maren Roush
Business Unit Manager, Biosafety Cabinetry
NSF International



To: NSF/ANSI 49 listed Biosafety Cabinet Owners, Users and Safety Personnel
Date: May 17, 2011
Subject: Revision to NSF/ANSI Standard 49-2010 *Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification*

The standard used to properly evaluate Class II biosafety cabinets, NSF/ANSI Standard 49 *Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification*, is designed to minimize hazards inherent in work with agents assigned to biosafety levels 1, 2, 3 or 4. It also defines the tests that shall be passed by such cabinets to meet this Standard. It is the Standard used by NSF International (NSF) to evaluate and certify newly manufactured cabinets, and by your NSF Accredited Field Certifier to evaluate your installed cabinets.

NSF/ANSI Standard 49 was recently revised (2010 edition) with important changes related to direct connected and canopy connected Type A cabinets and the presence of an associated alarm. The changes eliminate the option of a direct connected Type A cabinet which was acceptable in earlier editions of the Standard. The changes further incorporate a new alarm requirement for canopy connected Type A cabinets. This too was not required in previous editions of the Standard, though the change does now make it consistent with the alarm requirements that already exist for Type B cabinets.

NSF strongly encourages all organizations employing Class II biosafety cabinets to conduct routine internal risk assessments of their biosafety cabinet use, with input from qualified health and safety personnel, including the biosafety officer and your NSF Accredited Field Certifier. NSF considers both of the changes to Type A cabinets as an ideal opportunity to perform an internal risk assessment, with a particular focus on any direct connected Type A cabinets. Newly manufactured cabinets will provide for the alarms to be used on canopy connected Type A cabinets, but previously manufactured and installed cabinets may not.

NSF recommends that all cabinet installations meet the current requirements of the Standard. Your NSF accredited field certifier will document in their report the procedures against which they are certifying your biosafety cabinets. If those procedures are in accordance with Annex F of Standard 49, the field certifier is required to follow the most current edition of the Standard. If you specify otherwise, the field certifier will document in their report the discrepancies with the current edition of the Standard.

For additional information about ANSI/NSF Standard 49, please contact your NSF Accredited Biosafety Cabinet Field Certifier or NSF International (800-NSF-MARK).

Sincerely,

Tom Bruursema
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