

Safe Use of Centrifuges

Spills, leaks, tube breakage or improper use of safety cups/rotors can result in generation of biohazardous aerosols during centrifugation. Recommendations for safe centrifugation of infectious material or toxins include:

- Use the centrifuge according to the manufacturer's instructions and laboratory SOP:
 - Ensure that the centrifuge is properly balanced;
 - Use tubes intended for centrifugation, e.g. plastic thick-walled tubes with exterior thread screw caps;
 - Check tubes for stress lines, hairline cracks and chipped rims before use;
 - Never fill tubes to the rim;
- Use sealed centrifuge cups/rotors:
 - Inspect cup/rotor seal integrity regularly and replace if cracked or dry;
 - Load and unload infectious materials or toxins inside a BSC;
 - Allow time for aerosols to settle before opening cups/rotors;
 - Decontaminate the outside of the cups/rotors before and after centrifugation;
- Do not open the centrifuge lid during or immediately after operation, attempt to stop a spinning rotor by hand or with an object, or interfere with the interlock safety device;
- Clean spills promptly;
- Prohibit the use of centrifuges in a BSC.