

Animal Facility Description

The Biomedical Laboratory at the University of Southern Denmark houses predominantly genetically modified mice, under a barrier facility. The animal facility also carries out a SP-department which houses immune-deficient mice undergoing experiments.

Only authorized staff and personal are allowed to enter the facility. They are required to have at least 24 hours quarantine, if they have entered other animal facilities, before entry can be permitted.

Entry into the animal facility goes through changing rooms, where protective clothing, disposable hats and dedicated shoes are provided. Personnel wear gloves when touching or handling animals.

Most mice (70%) are housed in individually ventilated cages (IVC), under positive pressure. The remaining mice are housed in open cages. All cage equipment (cage and houses) are sanitized by chemicals and high temperature. Bedding, nesting and food are received from an approved vendor in vacuum packed bags. Drinking water is filtered tap water. All cage equipment, bedding, nesting and drinking water for the SP-department is autoclaved and food is gamma irradiated.

All animals entering the animal facility are received through laminar flow hoods. Most animals are coming from approved commercial vendors. Animals from other facilities or universities, needs to have their health report approved by the veterinarian. Animals with insufficient health reports are kept in a quarantine area, until the animals are proved free from pathogens by in vivo sampling.

Health monitoring is achieved via sentinel, population animals and environmental surveillance program, every 3rd month. Sentinel animals (Swiss female mice) receive dirty bedding from the colony they represent once a month. Once a year in November a full SOPF panel of pathogens are being tested. Quarterly testing involves a reduced panel of the most common and important pathogens, in regard to FELASA guidelines.

This health report includes historical results of the last 18 month.