WORKING SAFELY IN YOUR BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET

1. **Do not confuse laminar flow cabinets with biosafety cabinets.**
   - Laminar flow cabinets can look very similar to biosafety cabinets, but they only protect samples inside the work zone from external airborne contamination. They do not protect the operator. Read the labeling on your cabinet carefully before proceeding.

2. **Do not use the cabinet as a storage area.**
   - Overloading the cabinet with unnecessary items can affect cabinet airflow and containment.

3. **Proper cabinet location is critical.**
   - External airflow disturbances (doors, excessive human traffic, windows, air conditioner outlets) can compromise containment.

4. **The cabinet must be certified annually.**
   - This ensures cabinet airflow and containment factors are within safe limits. The cabinet should also be re-certified if it is physically relocated to ensure no filter damage has occurred.

5. **Observe correct sash opening height.**
   - Always set the sash to the work height when working in the cabinet.

6. **Proper work attire.**
   - Wearing a back-fastened lab coat (to protect the operator from splashes) as well as double gloving (over the cuffs) should be practiced.

7. **Safe Area.**
   - Work within the safe areas, segregating contaminated and non-contaminated materials.

8. **Work with within the safe areas.**
   - Plan your work before starting and place all items inside the cabinet before use to avoid having to take your arms out from the work zone which disturbs the air barrier. Always work from “clean” to “dirty”, segregating contaminated and non-contaminated materials.

9. **Observe proper aseptic technique.**
   - Do not obstruct any of the air grilles in the front or back of the work zone. Work as deep into the work zone as possible.

10. **Observe surface decontamination.**
    - Decontaminate the work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.

11. **Allow for purge cycles.**
    - Leave the blower on before & after use so as to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

12. **Always operate the unit continuously.**
    - To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.

13. **Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.**
    - Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.

14. **A Bunsen burner should not be used.**
    - The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

15. **Only trained personnel should use the cabinet.**
    - Access control provisions (key switch and/or password protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.

16. **Proper cabinet location is critical.**
    - The suitability of the cabinet for your application should be ascertained by an industrial hygienist or your safety officers. Do not use this cabinet with any toxic, flammable or explosive materials.

17. **Observe surface decontamination.**
    - Decontaminate the work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.

18. **Allow for purge cycles.**
    - Leave the blower on before & after use so as to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

19. **Always operate the unit continuously.**
    - To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.

20. **Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.**
    - Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.

21. **A Bunsen burner should not be used.**
    - The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

22. **Only trained personnel should use the cabinet.**
    - Access control provisions (key switch and/or password protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.

23. **Proper cabinet location is critical.**
    - The suitability of the cabinet for your application should be ascertained by an industrial hygienist or your safety officers. Do not use this cabinet with any toxic, flammable or explosive materials.

24. **Observe surface decontamination.**
    - Decontaminate the work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.

25. **Allow for purge cycles.**
    - Leave the blower on before & after use so as to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

26. **Always operate the unit continuously.**
    - To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.

27. **Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.**
    - Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.

28. **A Bunsen burner should not be used.**
    - The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

29. **Only trained personnel should use the cabinet.**
    - Access control provisions (key switch and/or password protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.

30. **Proper cabinet location is critical.**
    - The suitability of the cabinet for your application should be ascertained by an industrial hygienist or your safety officers. Do not use this cabinet with any toxic, flammable or explosive materials.

31. **Observe surface decontamination.**
    - Decontaminate the work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.

32. **Allow for purge cycles.**
    - Leave the blower on before & after use so as to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

33. **Always operate the unit continuously.**
    - To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.

34. **Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.**
    - Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.

35. **A Bunsen burner should not be used.**
    - The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

36. **Only trained personnel should use the cabinet.**
    - Access control provisions (key switch and/or password protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.

37. **Proper cabinet location is critical.**
    - The suitability of the cabinet for your application should be ascertained by an industrial hygienist or your safety officers. Do not use this cabinet with any toxic, flammable or explosive materials.

38. **Observe surface decontamination.**
    - Decontaminate the work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.

39. **Allow for purge cycles.**
    - Leave the blower on before & after use so as to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

40. **Always operate the unit continuously.**
    - To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.

41. **Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.**
    - Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.

42. **A Bunsen burner should not be used.**
    - The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

43. **Only trained personnel should use the cabinet.**
    - Access control provisions (key switch and/or password protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.

44. **Proper cabinet location is critical.**
    - The suitability of the cabinet for your application should be ascertained by an industrial hygienist or your safety officers. Do not use this cabinet with any toxic, flammable or explosive materials.

45. **Observe surface decontamination.**
    - Decontaminate the work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.

46. **Allow for purge cycles.**
    - Leave the blower on before & after use so as to purge the work zone of any contaminants.

47. **Always operate the unit continuously.**
    - To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.

48. **Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.**
    - Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.

49. **A Bunsen burner should not be used.**
    - The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.

50. **Only trained personnel should use the cabinet.**
    - Access control provisions (key switch and/or password protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.

NB: Additional reference materials on safe working practices are available from Esco. In addition, we conduct regular training seminars around the world. Please contact us for more information or visit [http://www.escoglobal.com](http://www.escoglobal.com)