

Capture Hood Periodic Checks

Guidance for Periodic Checks of Capture Hoods

In addition to pre-use checks by the user, it is recommended that more extensive tests are carried out periodically between thorough examination and test dates (or if it is suspected that the air flow is not satisfactory) to confirm that the capture hood is still working effectively. The tests described below are applicable to most types of capture hoods found in the University.

Any capture hood that fails the test must be taken out of use until rectified.

Failures must be recorded in the Issues Log (found within the logbook) and registered with the Supervisor / Laboratory Manager / Technical Services team who will inform the Estates Service Desk if the situation cannot be remedied locally.

Smoke Test

This is a visual test that may be carried out periodically in addition to the pre-use checks and may also be useful as an extra check if the air flow does not seem to be satisfactory.

Using a 'smoke pencil' (such as a Dräger Flow Check Air Flow Indicator Kit which can be procured via OPeRA) or similar device in front of the capture hood, observe the air flow.

Record your observations from carrying out smoke testing in the "Smoke Test/Dust Lamp Test Observations Log" (found within the logbook).

Record "Fail" if:

- You observe any turbulence or areas where smoke is not being drawn into the capture hood.

Dust Lamp Test

This is another visual test that may be carried out periodically to provide assurance that contaminants are captured and may also be useful as an extra check if the air flow does not seem to be satisfactory.

This test is appropriate for observing the flow of airborne particles (see HSE MDHS82: 'A simple tool for observing the presence of airborne particles', <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pUbns/mdhs/pdfs/mdhs82-2.pdf> for more information on this test).

Record your observations from carrying out dust lamp testing in the "Smoke Test/Dust Lamp Test Observations Log" (found within the logbook).

Record "Fail" if:

- You observe any areas where particles are not effectively being drawn away from the breathing zone and into the capture hood.