

# Containment Facilities

It is the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) that containment measures are in place to provide protection to laboratory staff from working with biological agents, which can potentially cause severe disease and pose a serious risk to health. The primary aim of any containment laboratory should be to control the exposure to biological agents at source, using procedural and engineering control measures.

Containment laboratories are classified depending upon the types of biological agents being used.

Normec Crowthorne provide fully independent commissioning and maintenance of containment facilities including ACDP and DEFRA Level 3 & 4 laboratories.

Normec Crowthorne has considerable experience in the commissioning and validation of CL3 and 4 facilities.

We are not manufacturers, designers or builders and therefore provide a completely unbiased report on the performance achieved.

## Successful projects often involve the following ten step approach:

1. Review design & specification
2. Visual inspection
3. Negative pressure room integrity test
4. Room air pressure test
5. Filter test
6. Commissioning of MSCs
7. Fumigation mode (ambient pressure room integrity test)
8. Room pressure control challenge test
9. Inspect general room requirements
10. Review fumigation protocols



## Decontamination

Normec Crowthorne also offers a fumigation service together with fumigation efficacy test to demonstrate effective sterilisation of the facility.

## Containment Facility Testing

Routine service checks may include:

- Airflow & air change rates
- Noise levels, where specified
- Operation of warning systems
- Operation of pressure gauges
- Check control of fumigation outlets
- Conduct HEPA filter in situ filter leak test
- Room integrity test
- Operation of HEPA safe change
- Control & operation of fumigation procedure
- Discharge arrangements
- Fumigation protocol
- Pressure control system challenges
- Fumigation efficacy test
- Issue a full report

The above are generic specifications and can be tailored to suit customer requirements whilst maintaining adherence to the related protocol.

## Sealability of CL3 and CL4 facilities

All laboratories which require fumigation will need to provide evidence to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that sealability tests using smoke pencils have been undertaken and any identified leak paths adequately rectified.

## Emergency CL3 Fumigation Scheme

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) guidance stipulates the requirement to be able to safely fumigate a facility in the event of a spillage or leakage which could lead to widespread contamination (routine fumigation is not stipulated).



In addition, a documented fumigation protocol is required for every containment laboratory, which should include a fumigation efficacy study which is validated using biological indicators, to ensure the effectiveness of an emergency fumigation.

## Emergency fumigation scheme

In the case of a spillage in your containment laboratory Normec Crowthorne offer an emergency fumigation scheme. Our highly trained engineers will attend your site to fumigate the potentially contaminated facility, dramatically reducing any downtime.