# PURPOSE

To establish a standard of care for use and maintenance of centrifuges used within the laboratory.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Do not use centrifuge tubes that have cracks in them, or chipped rims, as breakage may occur.
2. The rubber cushion inside the centrifuge should be checked for pieces of broken glass or other debris prior to use. The trunnion cups should be inspected for rough edges or any material that may have adhered to the cup itself.
3. Trunnion cups must be paired and balanced prior to use.
4. Matched sets of trunnions, buckets and plastic inserts must be used.
5. Samples must be balanced, either with another sample of the same weight, volume and consistency, or with a “blank” sample of equal weight and volume.
6. Aerosol-proof safety heads or cups or other equally effective means to prevent exposure of works must be used where:
7. Biohazardous aerosols may be generated
8. Where carcinogens may be present
9. Where radioactive samples are used and pose a hazard to workers
10. Avoid filling the tube to be centrifuged to the point that the liquid touches the cap.
11. When possible, use screw caps or caps that can fit over the rim outside the centrifuge tube rather than lug or cork-type closures. Aluminum foil, cotton balls or other types of caps that do not form a seal and/or may become loose during centrifugation should not be used.
12. Centrifuge tubes and Turin cups containing biohazardous material should be both filled and opened in the biological safety cabinet.
13. When opening tubes containing biohazardous material, wait a few minutes to allow the aerosols present to settle. Open material in a biological fume hood. Remember that the cap is also potentially contaminated, so gloves must be worn.
14. If centrifuging biohazardous material in a bench-top centrifuge, move it to a biological cabinet if possible
15. Centrifuges purchased after April 15, 1998, must have doors that interlock to prevent them from being opened while spinning. If the door is opened while the rotor is spinning, these interlock devices may cause the rotor to break.
16. Rotors must be stored in a manner that prevents them from being damaged.

## BIOHAZARDOUS SPILL CLEAN-UP

If a spill or breakage occurs in the centrifuge, the following steps must be taken to ensure that workers are protected from aerosols, cuts, etc.:

1. Person performing spill clean-up must wear:
2. Chemical splash goggles
3. Latex gloves
4. Lab coat
5. Shoes with closed toes
6. Turn off and unplug the centrifuge.
7. Ensure that the lid is closed to prevent further spilling while assembling cleaning materials.
8. Open the lid and pour glutaraldehyde or another appropriate disinfectant in and around the bowl.
9. Using tweezers or forceps, carefully remove any broken glass and place in a sharps container.
10. Remove any specimens that are not broken. Wipe the outside of the tubes with additional disinfectant.
11. Pour remaining disinfectant from the bowl down the drain, rinsing down with 50 times its volume of water. Wipe the inside of the bowl with disinfectant.

On a daily basis, the centrifuge is wiped down with appropriate disinfectant and wiped dry and recorded on CHQA01-012 Form A. The buckets and all other equipment are wiped as per Administration Procedure AD02-037 Centrifuges for Monthly maintenance and completion of AD02-037 Form A.

## REFERENCE

Centrifuge Safe Work Procedure, [www.cariboo.bc.ca/hsafety/swp.centrifuge.htm](http://www.cariboo.bc.ca/hsafety/swp.centrifuge.htm)

**Approval Signatures:**

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**History Review**

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| **Date Reviewed** | **Reviewed By** | **Revisions** |
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