

To: Deans, Directors and Department Heads

From: Steve Nelson, Associate Director Risk Management and Safety

Re: Outsourcing of Biosafety Cabinet/Clean Bench Certification Testing

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2006 the Department of Risk Management and Safety (RMS) will no longer provide services for testing and certifying biosafety cabinets and clean benches (laminar flow hoods). Outsourcing this function will cost departments using these devices approximately \$150 per BSC and \$100 per Clean Bench per year. The following table provides a summary of these costs broken down by department.

*Note1: Testing fees may change annually. Additional charges for cabinet decontamination and labor for performing filter changes and other major service apply.

This change is necessary due to advances in testing technology and subsequent revisions to the testing requirements of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the American Society of Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). As a result RMS personnel and equipment will no longer meet certification standards. A professional testing service contractor will be able to provide personnel with the necessary security clearances, experience at the national level, appropriate immunizations as well as state of the art equipment to ensure that our BSCs and Clean Benches meet national standards. Contracting these services will also reduce equipment down time for service and maintenance. For example, cabinet downtime will be approximately 1 day versus the current 3+ days for decontamination and filter changes.

According to our current information, RMS currently tests approximately 150 BSCs and 30 Clean Benches. However, we are not capable of certifying cabinets which are exhausted to the outside. As a result several departments are already having their exhausted type BSCs tested by an outside testing service provider.

RMS will coordinate the services and direct charge fees to the applicable departments. This will ensure that BSCs and Clean Benches are tested and certified as required and that documentation is available. The Laboratory Safety Program Manager will facilitate this program.

Please distribute this information to the faculty and staff within your academic and research units. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Risk Management and Safety at 844-4870.

Cc: John Heilman, Michael Moriarity, Christine Eick,