**University of Würzburg**



Office of Occupational Health and Safety, Animal Welfare and Environmental Protection

# Safety Guidelines

**Autoclaves**

Last update:

Workplace/activity:

|  |  |
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| **Safety, health, and environmental risks** | |
|  | - Delayed boiling occurring when autoclave is opened or basket is moved.  - Heat burns from hot materials and autoclave chamber, walls, and door. |
| Safety practices | |
|  | - Always follow manufacturer’s instructions (posted near autoclave).  - Wear full face protection and heat-resistant gloves when opening autoclave.  - Do not open lid until system has depressurised and temperature has fallen to below 80°C.  **Caution!** Allow viscous liquids, such as agar solution, to cool to 60°C or lower. |
| What to do in the event of malfunction | |
|  | - If you notice anything abnormal, turn off autoclave and notify supervisor.  - In the event of fire, attempt to extinguish with C02 extinguisher but only if you can do so without putting yourself in danger. |
| **What to do after an accident** | |
|  | - Disconnect autoclave from power supply.  - Move injured persons to a safe area.  - Immediately call **112** to alert emergency responders.  - Render first aid.  - Immediately report accident. |
| **Maintenance, waste disposal** | |
|  | All replacement parts must be equivalent to original manufacturer parts in terms of make and material. Always follow manufacturer’s maintenance schedule! All repairs must be performed by qualified personnel.  **Contact the competent official or the Office of Occupational Health and Safety, Animal Welfare and Environmental Protection (phone: 31-82684) if the scheduled preventive maintenance is overdue.** |

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Date Signature

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| June 2021 |