

**Pennsylvania State University
Department of Food Science**

**Food Safety Pilot Plant
Operations Policy**

Requirements for Access to this Facility

1. Submission of a Project Request for Food Safety Pilot Plant by the PI with subsequent review and approval by the Food Safety Group prior to beginning a project. The Project Request form contains information on project personnel, IBC/IRB approval, project summary with microbial agent(s) identified, lab practices, and other pertinent information. Forms can be obtained from the Pilot Plant Manager and on the Department Intranet page, under Forms, Pilot Plant.
2. All personnel using this facility shall have received:
 1. general facility orientation by the Pilot Plant Manager, AND
 2. general biosafety training approved by Dept. Food Science Food Safety Group, AND
 3. training in lab practices for the specific agent(s) and parameters of the project by the Principal Investigator/Advisor, AND
 4. autoclave training approved by the Facilities Director
3. All use of these facilities should be scheduled prior to use through the Facilities Manager, Bob Lumley-Sapanski, rx14@psu.edu , 814-863-2965, Rm 216 Food Science Building. Approved users will be granted key card access to the Pilot Plant, via the entrance in the Media Prep Room (Rm 417).

Pilot Plant Facilities

Access to the Food Safety Pilot Plant is limited to authorized personnel; tours and visitors are not allowed

The doors to the Food Safety Pilot Plant will remain locked at all times

Entrance to the Food Safety Pilot Plant (Rm 415) should be through the Decontamination Room (Rm 416); the door to Rm 416 should be shut completely before opening the door to Rm 415; entrance into the Pilot Plant directly from the hallway should be used only for moving equipment and large supplies and shall be done at a time when pathogenic agents are not in use

Foot baths shall be used when working with pathogenic agents. They shall be filled with sanitizing solution (i.e., Ster-Bac quat sanitizer) at the correct concentration, and should be changed regularly (e.g., daily)

If moderate to large quantities of liquids will be discharged (drains go directly into the digester) during the course of an experiment, the Facilities Director (Bob Lumley-Sapanski) shall be notified prior to beginning the experiment so that the digester cycle can be properly set.

Work surfaces shall be decontaminated after use and after spills

Decontamination of large equipment shall be done according to procedures approved by the Food Safety Group

Pilot Plant Practices

The General Operations Policy for the Department of Food Science Pilot Plants shall be followed, with the following changes and additions:

Eating and drinking are prohibited

Gloves shall be removed prior to leaving the Food Safety Pilot Plant

Hands shall be washed immediately after removing gloves

Hands shall be washed prior to leaving the Decontamination Room (Rm 416) and entering the Media Preparation Room (Rm 417). Hands shall then be washed again immediately upon entering the Media Preparation Room after exiting from the Decontamination Room

Contaminated materials shall be properly decontaminated (i.e., autoclaved) and placed in biohazard waste containers for disposal

Any incidences of self-contamination must be reported in a timely manner to the project advisor, the Safety Officer (Bob Lumley-Sapanski) and the Pilot Plant Manager.

Clothing

Protective clothing (i.e., lab coats, scrubs) shall be worn to prevent contamination of personal clothing

Protective clothing shall be removed before leaving the Decontamination Room (Rm 416) and entering the Media Preparation Room (Rm 417)

Protective clothing shall be laundered in the Decontamination Room (Rm 416)

Foot wear shall be changed from street shoes to pilot plant shoes/boots in the Decontamination Room (Rm 416) and shall be changed back to street shoes before entering the Media Preparation Room (Rm 417)

Gloves (e.g., latex) shall be worn when handling pathogenic agents, hazardous materials, and as appropriate

Eye wear (e.g., safety glasses, face shield) shall be worn when handling pathogenic agents in a manner that has a potential for splashing

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