

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

STEAMER (SCIE 3222B/4223B/4104B)

Purpose:

To provide safe operation and instruction for steam sterilization to Research/Teaching staff members in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:



In case of emergency or maintenance/repair issues, please contact: Jamie Jones. Ext 53816, SCIE 4482

- ✓ All operators must receive training prior to using the equipment. Please arrange training by contacting Jamie Jones (Department Support Technician), ext. 53816/ SCIE 4482. It remains the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure their personnel are adequately trained.
- ✓ **Burn Hazard** from hot surfaces, steam, hot water and sterilized materials.
- ✓ Ensure the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when using the steamer. This includes: safety glasses, autoclave/heat resistant gloves, lab coat and closed-toe shoes. Steamers are not to be used with exposed areas of skin or unprotected arms.
- ✓ Always be sure to **open the steamer door slowly** to release any excess steam.
- ✓ Water may drip down onto the handles or valves. Allow it to cool before touching or cleaning up.

OPERATING PROCEDURE:

1. Make sure the steam Supply is turned OFF (valve closed/clockwise) before operating the steamer.
2. Open the door **SLOWLY**.
3. Place material to be melted onto a steel tray and load the tray into the steamer.
4. Close the door. Turn the two locking knobs on the side of the steamer until the door is secure and sealed.
5. Open the steam supply by turning valve handle 3-5 full turns in a counter clockwise direction.
6. This steam supply valve is marked and is to the bottom right of the steamer. DO NOT tamper with the other valves.
7. Leave material in steamer for 30-60 minutes. This is sufficient for most applications.

UNLOADING THE STEAMER (BE SURE TO WEAR AUTOCLAVE GLOVES):

1. Turn off the steam supply by turning the steam supply valve completely In a clockwise direction
2. Leave door tightly sealed for approximately 5 minutes before opening the door to allow the steam in the chamber to disperse.
3. Unlock door lock knobs and open the door **SLOWLY** and remove the contents to a stable cart. Beware that hot water may drip onto the floor, pipes or supply valve.
4. Please be sure to clean up any spills to avoid potential slippage Injury.