



Office of Animal Care Compliance

Exception - Multiple Species Housing within Room

There is only one animal room each in the (b) (7)(F) and the current biohazard research program requires use of both mice and rat species at each biohazard risk level. For this reason, we need to house mice and rats in the same rooms. However, each species is segregated in separate ventilated cage/racks systems. Also, each room has approximately 15 fresh air changes per hour with no air recirculation. Supply air for each rack is drawn from the room through a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter and distributed to each cage. Subsequently all air from the cages is HEPA filtered and exhausted directly out of the building through the building exhaust ducting. In addition, procedures with mice and rats are not conducted at the same time and generally all procedures are conducted inside a BSC. The aforementioned building mechanical system, ventilated rack design, and methods significantly minimize the stress to animals that can be associated with exposure to interspecies odors or close proximity.

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