

Flow Cytometers and Biosafety

- All users should faithfully follow the Instrument SOP for correct operation and decontamination of the machines.
- All Instrument faults should be reported to the Facilities manger.

Analysers

Aerosols can be generated by the analysers, through the waste air vent tubing during normal operation, and from the sample injection ports (SIP) if the machine is blocked.

Users must ensure that tubes are fitted securely onto the SIP, as if these are blown off during pressurisation, sample could splash onto the operator. If the droplet containment function is not working this results in back dripping of sample which again may splash the user.

Flow Sorting

During normal operation cell sorters generate droplets and aerosols, which can be released into the room. If the machine fails i.e. excess air in the fluidics, or blocking of the nozzle aerosol production is massively increased. We have an aerosol management system to contain aerosols.

Sorts are accepted only after a full risk assessment. Sorting of unfixed class 2 material is at the discretion of the facilities manager & safety officer.

We do not have the facilities to sort cells infected with unfixed class 3 or 4 agents.

Any accidents should be reported to the Facilities Manager, and a University Accident Report Form completed.