


# Environmental Risk Assessment

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- \* Undertaking risk assessment
  - \* The nitty gritty of risk assessment – decontamination processes – Paschal Kent – IDI 2012
  - \* [http://www.wfhss.com/html/conf/assets/ie\\_idi\\_conf20120412\\_workshop\\_en.pdf](http://www.wfhss.com/html/conf/assets/ie_idi_conf20120412_workshop_en.pdf)

# 1. Design and suitability of decontamination facilities

No	Observations	Notes
1	a)Is the department is physically separated from all other work areas	Windows, doors
	b)What areas are adjacent to the department and do they pose any special risk, if so what are they	stores, housekeeping, plant rooms
2	a)Is the departments dirty, clean, inspection, assembly sterilisation, storage areas clearly segregated.	
	b)is there clear unidirectional flow between the critical areas	
3	c)Is there any potential for cross-over or disruption of the work flow	Check times of high activity, reduced staffing
4	a)Are staff facilities – changing rooms, showers, lockers, toilets adequate and clean	Is there sufficient security on doors. Lockers - are they secure. Are suitable hygiene products available
5	a)Security – Are all areas only accessible by authorised personnel.	Locks (key, combination, card) are they working. Are doors wedged open

# 1. Design and suitability of decontamination facilities – Walls Floors and Ceilings

No	Observations	Notes
6	a) Are walls smooth, flush, water resistant, dust free, non porous	Windows, doors, ventilation grills
	b) Have finishes (including junctions) been compromised:- Check for abuse, maintenance, chemical degradation, general wear and tear	Where maintenance has occurred are finishes fit for purpose and clean
7	a) Fitted units – are these flush with the walls, ceiling and floor.	Is there evidence of ingress of water beneath equipment
	b) Flooring – Is flooring complete and clean	Cracking, water stains, general wear and tear

# 1. Decontamination facilities –Work Stations, Furniture, Shelving and Equipment

No	Observations	Notes
1	a) easily cleanable, how often. Computers, keyboards, screens, mice, telephones	Consider dirt underneath keyboard.
	b) stools (seat and backs) foot rests. Are they included in cleaning protocols	
2	a) shelving – is there provision to clean between storage of items	Close to other equipment ie AER storage cabinets
	b) is storage shelving positioned appropriately away from doors, drafts, direct ventilation, heat sources,	

# 1. Decontamination facilities –Storage

No.	Observations	Notes
1	a) Supplies, cardboard boxes, wrapping materials, Printer Paper	Bacillus, yeast, moulds. Particularly if damp
	b) Is storage of consumables controlled and empty boxes removed from department ASAP	
2	a) Is Personnel, Protective equipment stored appropriately	

# 1. Decontamination facilities –Sub-contractors

No	Observations	Notes
1	a)Is an appropriate protocol in place for sub-contractors entering the department	They may be working in different areas within the hospital or have come from another hospital.
	b)are grubby sub-contractors made aware of PPE and good hygiene practices	

## 1. Decontamination facilities –Cleaning

No.	Observations	Notes
1	a) Is there a separate dedicated cleaning utility	
	a) Is there separate cleaning equipment available for dirty, clean (inspection, assembly, packaging, storage areas	Is the cleaning equipment stored separately, not in contact.
	a) Is the cleaning equipment appropriate and in good condition	
2	a) Are the cleaning protocols appropriate and up to date	Does actual practice reflect instruction. Use of two bucket system, HEPA filtered vacuum (Mopping – art form)
	a) Is there evidence of training	Are training records accessible
	a) Has there been a change in cleaning staff	
	a) Is frequency of cleaning maintained	Ensure records are up to date



# 1. Decontamination facilities – Disinfectants

No.	Observations	Notes
1	a) Has the disinfectant at the concentration specified by the manufacturer been proven effective against the target organisms that may be present on floors, equipment, work surfaces, shelving.	Confirm with manufacturer efficacy of disinfectants and required contact times
	a) Are areas to be cleaned free of dust and other organic loading	High levels of organic material will reduce efficacy dramatically
	a) Is there sufficient contact time	
	a) Are there any interfering substances that reduce efficacy of the disinfectant	
	a) Are disinfectants changed periodically	
	a) Are all areas being covered	Particularly those difficult areas to get too.

Antimicrobial biocides in the healthcare environment: efficacy, usage, policies, and perceived problems. Ther Clin Risk Manag. 2005 December; 1(4): 307–320.

# 1. Decontamination facilities – Ventilation

No.	Observations	Notes
1	a) Has the annual verification and periodic maintenance of the AHU been carried out	
	a) Are window, ceilings, light fitting hermetically sealed	
	a) Is there visible sign of dirt on supply and extract ventilation grills	
	a) Is there significant drop in pressure if one or more doors open	
	a) Is the temperature and humidity comfortable	
	a) Measure and record the room differential pressure	
	a) Are airflows correct Is the flow of air from the clean to the less clean areas – smoke test	

## 1. Decontamination facilities – Personnel

No.	Observations	Notes
1	a) Are all personnel appropriately trained in and undertaking good hygiene practice, personnel and environmental.	including the correct use and disposal of PPE
	a) Are personnel changing PPE if moving from area to area or when soiled	
	a) Has there been a change in personnel	
	a) Has there been a change in routine	