

## FLSC Standard Operating Procedure for the Portable Euthanex Euthanasia Chamber

### Equipment

Euthanex Euthanasia Chamber – small top loading Plexiglas chamber

Animal cage(s)

Carbon dioxide delivered through the facility system

### Procedure

1. Plug the chamber into the electrical outlet
2. Attach the CO<sub>2</sub> hose from the chamber flow meter (25 L maximum) to the control box attached to the unit. The port is located on the underside of the control box. Check that the hose is secured.
3. Attach the exhaust tube (4 inch diameter) to the room air vent or place in a fume hood.
4. Turn on the CO<sub>2</sub> located near the flow meter.
5. Turn on the flow meter.
6. The Euthanex chamber ON switch is located on the underside of the smart box. When turned ON the green READY indicator will light (the machine needs a few moments to become ready).
7. Remove bonnets and any food and water bottles from the cage and wire bar lid leaving the wire bar lid in place.
8. Place animals in their home cage into the chamber. A maximum of 8 mouse cages in 2 tiers or a single rat cage will fit in the chamber. Close the lid and secure the 3 latches.
9. Push the toggle switch on the control box up for Adult and Weanling rodents. Push the toggle down for Neonates only.
10. Adjust the flow meter to 20 liters per minute rate.
11. The chamber is preset for a 7 minute fill time followed by a 5 minute dwell time and a 2 minute exhaust. The chamber cannot be opened until the exhaust cycle is complete.
12. Remove the animals from the chamber and place in opaque carcass bags. There is no need for cervical dislocation or bilateral pneumothorax. Turn off the machine, flowmeter and gas main valve. Disconnect hoses.
13. The chamber must be disinfected after use. Remove visible contaminants (bedding/feces). Use the table disinfectant spray and wipe dry using paper towels. After euthanizing any BSL-2 animals or animals known to be infected with pathogens, spray the chamber with C-Dox (chlorine dioxide sterilant solution). Allow a 10-15 minute contact time before wiping dry. After cleaning with C-Dox wipe the chamber with table disinfectant.

### CO<sub>2</sub> Tank Information

1. If using the tanks beyond the normal work day, check tank pressure and notify animal facility personnel if a new tank will be needed for the weekend or after hours procedures. (RCH & FLSC)
2. To turn on the tanks, turn the valve on the top of the cylinder. DO NOT touch the regulator control knobs – these are preset for the needs of the animal facility. (RCH & FLSC)
3. The light switch for the tank rooms (full tanks and empty tanks) is located on the wall just inside Galvin loading dock glass doors. It is a timer switch and should be turned on for the minimum time needed.
4. Keys for the Galvin tank room must be secured from the Biology Department Main Office. Please check with your lab as one key is issued per lab.
5. In case of problems during working hours call the FLSC office at 1-6085 or RCH office at 1-5044.