Lab Coat Laundering

1. **Definition:**
   a. This procedure applies to the washing of TBEP lab coats using the dedicated on-site washing machine and dryer located in the Autoclave room on the 14th floor.

2. **Responsibility:**
   a. The laboratory should ensure that lab coat guidelines are well-communicated to all users.
   b. The laboratory must ensure adequate supply of laundry materials for cleaning the lab coats.
   c. The user must clean lab coats on a regular basis (at least once a month) or handle contaminated lab coats per stipulated guidelines.

3. **Precaution:**
   a. To avoid contamination, do not use the same lab coat for both chemical and biological work.
   b. DO NOT take lab coats home for any reason.
   c. DO NOT autoclave lab coats with any combination of biological/radioactive/chemical contaminants.

4. **Procedure:**
   a. Uncontaminated Lab Coats
      - Transfer lab coats into the washer one at a time and close the door.
      - Fill the washer compartments as required – detergent and bleach are on the metal shelf beside the washing machine/dryer.
      - Set the washer to the desired cycle and press the START/PAUSE button.
      - There is a quick guide to operating the washing machine on top of the unit, and more in-depth instructions are in the owner's manual: http://gscs-b2c.lge.com/downloadFile?fileId=3KQBrRBu02xgW9j2hizfNw
   b. Contaminated Lab Coats
      - Biological Contaminants
        Lab coats contaminated by any type or level of biological agent **must** be decontaminated in the autoclave before being laundered in the washer.
      - Chemical Contaminants
        Lab coats contaminated with chemical spills of a highly toxic, corrosive or persistent nature from any of the categories listed below should be disposed of following the Hazardous Waste Disposal guidelines:

- Volatile carcinogens, teratogens, or toxic materials with an LD50<50mg/kg.
- Smell of chemicals, or contaminated with materials that pass through nitrile gloves (e.g., organometallics like methyl mercury), or contaminated with large amounts (sized greater than a loonie in area) of concentrated acids or other corrosives.
- Lab coat still wet with contaminants.

NOTE: If the spill does not meet any of the above conditions, the lab coat can be washed following the general operation guidelines above.

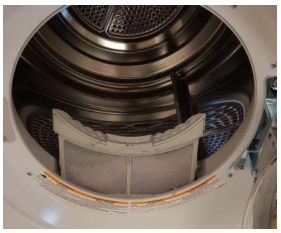
- Radioactive Materials:
  If a spill on the lab coat involves radioactive material, inform the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) immediately, put the lab coat in a sealed bag a give it to the RSO directly.

5. Dryer Operation:

TBEP owns a condenser dryer which functions differently from the common vented dryer. Moisture extracted during the drying process is condensed to water and pumped into a reservoir. To maintain efficiency of the dryer, take the steps below before and after each use of the dryer:

a. Before loading the dryer:
   - Empty the reservoir:
     - Using the handle on the front of the drawer, carefully pull the reservoir out towards you.
     - Transfer to a sink and empty out the water.
     - Return the reservoir to its compartment.
       NOTE: The dryer will stop mid-cycle if the reservoir is full.

   - Clear the lint filter:
     - Open the door and pull the filter up.
     - Use your fingers to roll the lint off the screen surface.
       NOTE: The dryer will stop mid-cycle if the lint filter is hot. A full lint filter that becomes hot poses a potential fire hazard.



b. Select your cycle and press the START/PAUSE button.
c. After drying cycle is complete
   - Remove the dried lab coats
   - Repeat the steps 4.8.2 and 4.8.3

NOTE: comprehensive operating instructions can be found in the dryer owner's manual: http://gscs-b2c.lge.com/downloadFile?fileId=KROWM000348481.pdf

6. **References:**
   a. https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Lab-Coat-Guidelines.pdf
   b. https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Lab-Coat-Washing-Guidelines.pdf
   c. http://gscs-b2c.lge.com/downloadFile?fileId=KROWM000348481.pdf
   d. http://gscs-b2c.lge.com/downloadFile?fileId=3KQBrRBu02xgW9j2hizfNw