Class I and III Cabinets

R. Powitz opened the floor to discuss whether to expand the scope to include class I and III cabinets in the standard. One argument against doing so was that the amount of these cabinets being manufactured may not be worth being certified. It was also argued that manufacturers of Class I and III cabinets could still use the standard and just not be certified and listed. S. Williams added most of Class III cabinets are custom and would be more difficult to certify. Language would have to be incorporated in the standard to address this. However, a strong argument was made in favor of this change by pointing out that regarding the public health issue, it would make sense to include these in the standard and certification process. It was suggested that the Committee could create a simpler annex for these cabinets.

Motion: R. Gilpin made a motion to expand the scope of the standard to include class I and III biosafety cabinets. M. Gibson seconded.

Discussion: The Committee discussed the fact that all classes of cabinets would use the standard to be manufactured; nevertheless the requirements cannot be applied to the other types as they stand. This would lead to adjusting areas such as performance specific to the other classes. There is a need to evaluate and consider the cost of testing classes, performance, and construction in the standard.

Vote: All in favor.

Motion passed.

R. Powitz requested that a task group be formed to update the scope to include class I and III biosafety cabinets and explore performance, field testing, and certification in the rest of the standard for consistency. Volunteers included: S. Williams (chair), R. Lloyd, M. Gibson, D. Phillips, G. Klingbeil, A. Johnson, J. Hunter, W. Peters, J. Balsamo, R. Gilpin, M. E. Kennedy, N. Flynn, F. Spevak, J. Wagner, G. Norman, R. Lloyd, and C. Binder. The task group agreed to have a conference call and gather information to present by late spring. It was suggested that the European, Australian, and Canadian standards could be used as a reference.