MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Committee on Biosafety Cabinetry

FROM: Robert W. Powitz, Chairperson of the Joint Committee

DATE: June 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Proposed revision to NSF/ANSI 49 (49i21r2) – Definition of integrity testing

Enclosed is the ballot for NSF/ANSI 49 issue 21, revision 2 on the definition of integrity testing. Please review the proposal and return your ballot by the ballot due date of July 15, 2008 via the NSF online workspace.

Purpose
To update language in various sections regarding the definition of a type A1/A2 biosafety cabinets and to update language in annex F regarding integrity testing.

Background
Removal of the exposed positive pressure plenums in type A1/A2 biosafety cabinets would be beneficial to public health. Therefore, since positive pressure plenums will be disallowed, the integrity testing language will be updated as well. As long as construction of the cabinet shows negative pressure as opposed to positive pressure for all plenums in direct contact with the surrounding environment, then it is acceptable.

This change was proposed to the JC at the 2007 meeting and was motioned to ballot. Revision 2 shows the removal of the helium leak test in section 6.

Public Health Impact
None of the above issues have a public health impact.

If you have any questions about the technical content of the ballot, you may contact me in care of:

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