

Use of Electronic Equipment in Laboratories

Introduction

The aim of the following sections is to provide guidance on the use of tablets, i-pods and mobile phones within laboratories.

Tablets, Phablets, ipads, notebooks

These may be taken into laboratories provided they are completely enclosed in a plastic covering that can be wiped or otherwise decontaminated using Virkon, bleach or another agent. The chosen cleaning agent must be demonstrated to fully decontaminate the item.

If there is a risk that the equipment could be contaminated with blood, plasma, body fluids, or by untreated pathogens, the equipment should either not be taken into the laboratory or should be enclosed in a plastic covering and then further enclosed in a disposable outer wrapper.

Any contaminated equipment must be completely decontaminated before it is taken out of the lab.

i-Pods, etc

These should not be used in laboratories as they can be distracting which could affect safety critical procedures.

It is permissible to create a playlist on the machine and then send it by Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or other means to a sound bar or speakers. The machine should not be handled after the playlist has been engaged.

Headphones and earphones

These are not permitted in laboratories.

Radios

These may be used in laboratories but must be capable of being decontaminated. The radio must be handled by ungloved hands at all times to prevent people becoming contaminated when handling them on a later occasion.

The radio must not be at a volume that is distracting to other people.

Mobile phones

Mobiles phones must not be used in laboratories. It is preferable that the phones are left outside the laboratory if possible. Mobile phones must not be used as timers in laboratories

If mobiles need to be carried, all conversations must take place outside of the laboratory and gloves must be removed before exiting the lab..