

**Risk Assessment**

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| **Image Resource Facility**  **St. George’s University of London** | |
| **Name of Risk Assessor:** | Yvette Bland |
| **Risk Assessment number:** | **RA-03 Histology** |
| **Task: Cutting Sections using the rotary microtome and subsequent mounting of sections** | |
| **Location of work to be carried out:**  Image Resource Facility (IRF), Lower Ground Level, Basement, Jenner Wing, Corridor 3A, Histology Lab. | |
| **Personnel:** IRF staff, SGUL students and researchers, outside collaborators  All non-IRF staff must complete and sign this risk assessment | |
| **Location of copies: IRF Manager - Room 01.48**  **Bench copy - EM Lab**  **Electronic copy –** [**IRF (\\shares1) (M:)**](file:///\\shares1\IRF\Health%20&%20Safety\Risk%20Assessments\ELectron%20Microscopy\SOP-HIS-01.docx) | |

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| **Part 1 Describe the task**  (For work involving chemicals or biological agents the COSHH Risk Assessment form should be used. For work involving radiological agents the Radiation Risk Assessment form should be used. For work involving Manual Handling the Manual Handling Risk Assessment form should be used.)  Trimming a wax block containing embedded tissue. Cutting sections from the wax block using a microtome, mounting the sections onto slides. |
| **Part 2 Determine the hazards and the risks that the task poses**  **Trimming the block.**  Could cut oneself with razor blade used to trim the block.  **Setting up the microtome or making adjustments**.  Could cut oneself on the microtome blade.  **Mounting the sections**.  Could cut oneself on razor blade whilst separating ribbons of sections.  Could burn oneself on the hot plate. |
| **State the Risks to Health from Identified Hazards**  Could cut oneself badly ie. Sever a finger, cut an artery open.  Could burn oneself on the hotplate. |
| **Indicate those who could be affected by the work / task**  Inexperienced workers such as students, or, more likely than not, anyone not concentrating on the task. |
| **Safety measures currently in place**  Control Measures: *(*for example extraction, ventilation, training, supervision). Include special measures for vulnerable groups, such as disabled people and pregnant workers. Take account of those substances that are produced from activities undertaken by other’s nearby.  Training and supervision provided until worker is considered competant enough to work independently. |
| **Part 3 Indicate the level of the risk the task poses using current safety**  **Measures**  Explain the reason for your decision (Risk could be Low / Medium / High)  High risk. Very easy to cut oneself if not careful enough. Cut could be serious. |
| **Part 4 Determine ways to further control the risks**  Repeatedly emphasise to workers the need to concentrate at all times when cutting sections.  Emphasise to workers that they MUST lock the microtome controls when making adjustments to the block or replacing/ removing block or blade.  Regularly check workers are OK whilst cutting sections. |
| **Waste Disposal Management**  Blades to be disposed of in yellow lidded sharps bins.  Waste wax sections can be disposed of in yellow bag. |
| **Spill / Emergency Procedures**  Press RED BUTTON on electrical microtome. Switch off power to electrical microtome. |
| **First Aid Procedures**  Apply a plaster to cut or apply tourniquet if cut is serious and seek medical help. |
| **Risk Control**  Are the risks associated with the project adequately controlled? Yes  Please state your reason Workers will be trained and supervised and when competant enough to work independently someone can check regularly that they are OK. |
| **Part 5**  **Implementation and Communication of the Risk Assessment**  Date of completion of Assessment 13/10/16  Who is responsible for communicating this assessment to other staff Manager of the IRF  Names and Signatures of those covered by this assessment |
| **Part 6 Review of Risk Assessment**  Completion date of assessment  Review date of assessment |