

Protocol for importation of sawdust into an isolator

To bring sawdust into an isolator, it needs to be autoclaved within the transport drum and following this an aseptic connection needs to be made with the isolator in question

Materials for transport cylinder preparation for sawdust importation

A. Inside the drum

1. Supply of dust-free sawdust loaded into 11 autoclavable stockings using the loading device. Before loading, the stockings should be knotted on the underside and after loading they should be sealed with a knot on the upper side.
2. 3x 100ml empty Duran flasks each marked with serial number¹
3. 135°C chemical indicator strip

B. Additional materials required

1. Transport drum and all trays as base
2. Mylar film
3. Vinyl tape²
4. Free autoclave time (make reservation ahead of time)
5. Spray gun and hose.
6. Spray gun container with 100ml of 2% peracetic acid (freshly made up). The lid on the container should be tightly screwed down.
7. Swab loaded into swab holder
8. 250ml Duran flask to hold 10ml of peracetic acid (freshly made up).
9. Access to electronic form for cylinder connection (e.g. GnotoformABC.xls, where ABC is the three-digit isolator code³—see **Gnoto1010** for codes).

Procedure for transport cylinder preparation and connection

1. Clean out the transport drum
2. Put the second and fourth trays into the drum to provide a platform for the materials.
3. Distribute the stockings over the trays and do not overlap. Leave space for the 100ml sample bottles, which should also be loaded into the drum.
4. Load the drum with the pestle and mortar, the paper bags and the sample bottles.
5. Seal the drum with Mylar film (see **Gnoto1023**).
6. Autoclave the drum on appropriate program (see **Gnoto1011**).
7. Remove the drum from the autoclave and bring into the gnotobiotic unit (see **Gnoto1007**).

¹ Coding for the sample bottles. These are in groups of 6 and **coded in the standard fashion** with sample labels (format is 020520051 where the tube was prepared on 02 of May (05) Year (2005) and number (1))

² **Colour Codes for Vinyl Tape**

Red – Cages & Equipment

Blue – Water

Green – Bedding & Food

³ For example, Gnotoform101.xls refers to isolator 101, Gnotoform102.xls refers to isolator 102, and so on.

8. Connect drum to isolator as per **Gnoto1024**.
9. Remove sawdust bags from each tray in sequence and place them in the isolator.
10. Take samples for bacterial culture. One bottle should remain unopened. The remaining two bottles should be opened and 6-7 samples of faeces from random cages should be transferred into each bottle using the long forceps in the isolator. The sample bottles are then transferred back to the transport cylinder.
11. One sample bottle should remain unopened, and all sample bottles are then transferred back to the transport cylinder.
12. Close inner quadralock door.
13. Detach the sleeve and place it to be cleaned prior to next use.
14. Complete the form GnotoformABC.xls online, print off a copy, and file it in the appropriate file for the isolator.
15. Place the sample bottles in the tray in the corridor.
16. Store the transport cylinder.