

## Fact Sheet

# How to Perform Radiological Wipe Samples

### **Introduction:**

All active radioactive labs must document and perform monthly wipe samples. If radioactive work has ceased, indicate this in your wipe sample log (i.e. “no radioactive materials stored or used for XX months”) Resume wipe testing once work has begun again. Make sure to wear appropriate PPE while taking the wipe samples (i.e. gloves, safety glasses, lab coat, etc.)

### **You will need:**

Scintillation vials (quantity depends on size of sample space plus two for field blanks), filter paper, PPE, scintillation cocktail, sharpie, wipe sample log.

### **Instructions:**

1. Draw and label a diagram of the area to be sampled.
2. Use filter papers to take several samples from work and storage spaces. Tear a small portion of the filter paper to take sample. Sample area should be no greater than 1 square foot and be taken in a slow “S” motion.
3. Place samples into separate numbered scintillation vials. The numbers should correspond to the locations sampled so make sure to indicate these areas in the wipe sample log.
4. Place enough scintillation cocktail into the vial to cover the filter paper and secure vial with cap.
5. Prepare two blank s in the same manner to serve as background samples.
6. Open scintillation counter and place prepared scintillation vials into holder and load rack on the right side, closest to user.
7. Close top and press “Start” to begin scintillation counting. (Make sure counter is set to perform the correct procedure) Process takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.
8. Review report to determine if contamination is present. Wipe tests show counts in excess of 3x the background count. Therefore, if the sample CPM is greater than 3x the background, contamination is present. If no contamination is present, document the results.
9. If contamination is present, proceed to clean the area and then retest until no contamination is present. Document the contaminated area and results of the retest in your logbook.
10. Dispose of scintillation vials as radioactive waste.