

UMMC Standard Operating Procedure For Handling

1,1-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride (Paraquat Dichloride)

Prepared by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Hazard: Paraquat generally is of moderate to high acute toxicity based on inhalation toxicity, oral toxicity, and moderate severe eye irritation. The chemical shows no evidence of carcinogenicity.

Laboratory operations should be conducted in a fume hood, glove box, or ventilated cabinet.

For skin exposure: Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15 – 20 minutes.

For eye exposure: Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15 – 20 minutes.

For ingestion: SPEED IS ESSENTIAL. Immediate medical attention is required. If available, give an adsorbent such as activated charcoal, bentonite or Fuller's Earth.

For inhalation: Move person to fresh air. The odor is from the stanching agent.

Call Syngenta (800-888-8372) and talk to a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

Unused Material and Instrument Disposal: Surplus Paraquat will be disposed by EHS as a hazardous waste. Empty used syringes will be placed in a red sharps container.

PPE for handling or change out of treated animals:

Long-sleeved shirt and long pants

Waterproof gloves

Shoes and socks

Face shield

Chemical resistant apron

Waste Disposal: Retain cage litter for 3 days after administration and place into heavy mill plastic bag that is firmly tied closed. After the first cage change there is no need for further special precautions regarding the animals or the cages as long as the animals have not received any more Paraquat. Potentially contaminated carcasses will be incinerated. Potentially contaminated bedding and other nonsharps materials will be disposed as hazardous waste by EHS.

Cage Disinfection: Cages and accessories are transported to the cage washing facility for disinfecting. Regular cage wash sanitization meets requirements for cleanup.

Contact the Safety Officer – Chemicals at 601-984-1981 if additional information is needed.