



**To:** NSF/ANSI 49 listed Biosafety Cabinet Owners, Users and Safety Personnel  
**Date:** May 17, 2011  
**Subject:** Revision to NSF/ANSI Standard 49-2010 *Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification*

The standard used to properly evaluate Class II biosafety cabinets, NSF/ANSI Standard 49 *Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification*, is designed to minimize hazards inherent in work with agents assigned to biosafety levels 1, 2, 3 or 4. It also defines the tests that shall be passed by such cabinets to meet this Standard. It is the Standard used by NSF International (NSF) to evaluate and certify newly manufactured cabinets, and by your NSF Accredited Field Certifier to evaluate your installed cabinets.

NSF/ANSI Standard 49 was recently revised (2010 edition) with important changes related to direct connected and canopy connected Type A cabinets and the presence of an associated alarm. The changes eliminate the option of a direct connected Type A cabinet which was acceptable in earlier editions of the Standard. The changes further incorporate a new alarm requirement for canopy connected Type A cabinets. This too was not required in previous editions of the Standard, though the change does now make it consistent with the alarm requirements that already exist for Type B cabinets.

NSF strongly encourages all organizations employing Class II biosafety cabinets to conduct routine internal risk assessments of their biosafety cabinet use, with input from qualified health and safety personnel, including the biosafety officer and your NSF Accredited Field Certifier. NSF considers both of the changes to Type A cabinets as an ideal opportunity to perform an internal risk assessment, with a particular focus on any direct connected Type A cabinets. Newly manufactured cabinets will provide for the alarms to be used on canopy connected Type A cabinets, but previously manufactured and installed cabinets may not.

NSF recommends that all cabinet installations meet the current requirements of the Standard. Your NSF accredited field certifier will document in their report the procedures against which they are certifying your biosafety cabinets. If those procedures are in accordance with Annex F of Standard 49, the field certifier is required to follow the most current edition of the Standard. If you specify otherwise, the field certifier will document in their report the discrepancies with the current edition of the Standard.

For additional information about ANSI/NSF Standard 49, please contact your NSF Accredited Biosafety Cabinet Field Certifier or NSF International (800-NSF-MARK).

Sincerely,

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NSF International