Allometrics

when measurements matter

We are fast approaching December 1st, 2019, when **USP <800>** goes into effect. In an effort to make sure that all our customers are completely prepared for this change, we are including the following excerpt from USP's Frequently Asked Questions. Please note, the information below only applies if you are a compounding facility or handle hazardous drugs.

We have highlighted questions and answers that may be of concern to you during our next certification visit. Two very important items are shown here:

Question 19

- Is the C-PEC used for sterile compounding required to be exhausted to the outside or can the C-PEC be re-circulated into the negative pressure C-SEC which is exhausted to the outside of the building?
    - The Chapter requires that all C-PECs used for manipulation of sterile HDs ***must be*** externally vented. Sterile HD compounding ***must be*** performed in a C-PEC that provides an ISO Class 5 or better air quality, such as a Class II or III biological safety cabinet (BSC) or compounding aseptic containment isolator (CACI). Class II BSC types A2, B1, or B2 are acceptable. C-PECs used for pre-sterilization procedures such as weighing and mixing ***must be*** either externally vented (preferred) or have redundant–HEPA filters in series and must provide personnel and environmental protection, such as a Class I BSC or Containment Ventilated Enclosure (CVE). A Class II BSC or a CACI may also be used.
    - All hazardous drugs shall be prepared in a BSC3 or a CACI that meets or exceeds the standards for CACI in this chapter. The ISO Class 5 (reference attached) BSC or CACI shall be placed in an ISO Class 7 (reference attached) area that is physically separated (i.e., a different area from other preparation areas) and optimally has not less than 0.01-inch water column negative pressure to adjacent positive pressure ISO Class 7 (see Table 1) or better ante-areas, thus providing inward airflow to contain any airborne drug. A pressure indicator shall be installed that can be readily monitored for correct room pressurization. The BSC and CACI optimally should be 100% vented to the outside air through HEPA filtration.

Questions 32 and 33 relate to Environmental wipe sampling. Although not required by USP <800>, it is recommended to confirm containment of hazardous compounds. If you are concerned with the ability of your cabinet to contain hazardous components, Allometrics can provide you with wipe sampling kits for the analysis of possible contaminants.

To request an estimate for a preliminary visit, new compliant units or wipe Sampling Kits, you may send your inquiry to sales@allometrics.com or call us at 281-474-3329.

5.3 Compounding

Sterile and nonsterile HDs must be compounded within a C-PEC located in a C-SEC. The C-SEC used for sterile and nonsterile compounding must:

- Be externally vented through high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration
- Be physically separated (i.e., a different room from other preparation areas)
- Have an appropriate air exchange (e.g., ACPH)
- Have a negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to all adjacent areas

The C-PEC must operate continuously if it supplies some or all of the negative pressure in the C-SEC or if it is used for sterile compounding. If there is any loss of power to the C-PEC, or if repair or moving occurs, all activities occurring in the C-PEC must be suspended immediately. If necessary, protect the unit by covering it appropriately per the manufacturer's recommendations. Once the C-PEC can be powered on, decontaminate, clean, and disinfect (if used for sterile compounding) all surfaces and wait the manufacturer-specified recovery time before resuming compounding.

A sink must be available for hand washing. An eyewash station and/or other emergency or safety precautions that meet applicable laws and regulations must be readily available. Care must be taken to locate water sources and drains in areas where their presence will not interfere with required ISO classifications. Water sources and drains must be located at least 1 meter away from the C-PEC.

For entities that compound both nonsterile and sterile HDs, the respective C-PECs must be placed in separate rooms, unless those C-PECs used for nonsterile compounding are sufficiently effective that the room can continuously maintain ISO 7 classification throughout the nonsterile compounding activity. If the C-PECs used for sterile and nonsterile compounding are placed in the same room, they must be placed at least 1 meter apart and particle-generating activity must not be performed when sterile compounding is in process.

5.3.1 NONSTERILE COMPOUNDING

In addition to this chapter, nonsterile compounding must follow standards in *Pharmaceutical Compounding—Nonsterile Preparations* ⟨795⟩. A C-PEC is not required if manipulations are limited to handling of final dosage forms (e.g., counting or repackaging of tablets and capsules) that do not produce particles, aerosols, or gasses.

The C-PECs used for manipulation of nonsterile HDs must be either externally vented (preferred) or have redundant–HEPA filters in series. Nonsterile HD compounding must be performed in a C-PEC that provides personnel and environmental protection, such as a Class I Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) or Containment Ventilated Enclosure (CVE). A Class II BSC or a compounding aseptic containment isolator (CACI) may also be used. For occasional nonsterile HD compounding, a C-PEC used for sterile compounding (e.g., Class II BSC or CACI) may be used but must be decontaminated, cleaned, and disinfected before resuming sterile compounding in that C-PEC. A C-PEC used only for nonsterile compounding does not require unidirectional airflow because the critical environment does not need to be ISO classified.

The C-PEC must be placed in a C-SEC that has at least 12 ACPH. *Table 2* summarizes the engineering controls required for nonsterile HD compounding.

Due to the difficulty of cleaning HD contamination, surfaces of ceilings, walls, floors, fixtures, shelving, counters, and cabinets in the nonsterile compounding area must be smooth, impervious, free from cracks and crevices, and non-shedding.

Table 2. Engineering Controls for Nonsterile HD Compounding

C-PEC	C-SEC Requirements
• Externally vented (preferred) or redundant–HEPA filtered in series • Examples: CVE, Class I or II BSC, CACI	• Externally vented • 12 ACPH • Negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to adjacent areas

5.3.2 STERILE COMPOUNDING

In addition to this chapter, sterile compounding must follow standards in ⟨797⟩.

All C-PECs used for manipulation of sterile HDs must be externally vented. Sterile HD compounding must be performed in a C-PEC that provides an ISO Class 5 or better air quality, such as a Class II or III BSC or CACI. Class II BSC types A2, B1, or B2 are acceptable. For most known HDs, type A2 cabinets offer a simple and reliable integration with the ventilation and pressurization requirements of the C-SEC. Class II type B2 BSCs are typically reserved for use with volatile components. *Appendix 3* describes the different types of BSCs.

A laminar airflow workbench (LAFW) or compounding aseptic isolator (CAI) must not be used for the compounding of an antineoplastic HD. A BSC or CACI used for the preparation of HDs must not be used for the preparation of a non-HD unless the non-HD preparation is placed into a protective outer wrapper during removal from the C-PEC and is labeled to require PPE handling precautions.

The C-PEC must be located in a C-SEC, which may either be an ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO Class 7 ante-room (preferred) or an unclassified containment segregated compounding area (C-SCA). If the C-PEC is placed in a C-SCA, the beyond-use date (BUD) of all compounded sterile preparations (CSPs) prepared must be limited as described in ⟨797⟩ for CSPs prepared in a segregated compounding area. *Table 3* summarizes the engineering controls required for sterile HD compounding.

Table 3. Engineering Controls for Sterile HD Compounding

Configuration	C-PEC	C-SEC	Maximum BUD
ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO Class 7 ante-room	• Externally vented • Examples: Class II BSC or CACI	• Externally vented • 30 ACPH • Negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to adjacent areas	As described in ⟨797⟩
Unclassified C-SCA	• Externally vented • Examples: Class II BSC or CACI	• Externally vented • 12 ACPH • Negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to adjacent areas	As described in ⟨797⟩ for CSPs prepared in a segregated compounding area

ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO class 7 ante-room: The C-PEC is placed in an ISO Class 7 buffer room that has fixed walls, HEPA-filtered supply air, a negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to all adjacent areas and a minimum of 30 ACPH.

The buffer room must be externally vented. Because the room through which entry into the HD buffer room (e.g., ante-room or non-HD buffer room) plays an important role in terms of total contamination control, the following is required:

- Minimum of 30 ACPH of HEPA-filtered supply air
- Maintain a positive pressure of at least 0.02 inches of water column relative to all adjacent unclassified areas
- Maintain an air quality of ISO Class 7 or better

An ISO Class 7 ante-room with fixed walls is necessary to provide inward air migration of equal cleanliness classified air into the negative pressure buffer room to contain any airborne HD. A hand-washing sink must be placed in the ante-room at least 1 meter from the entrance to the HD buffer room to avoid contamination migration into the negative pressure HD buffer room.

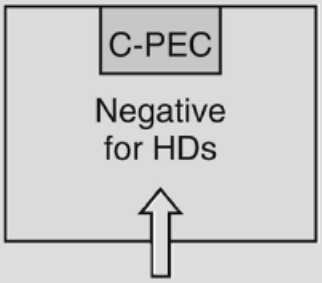
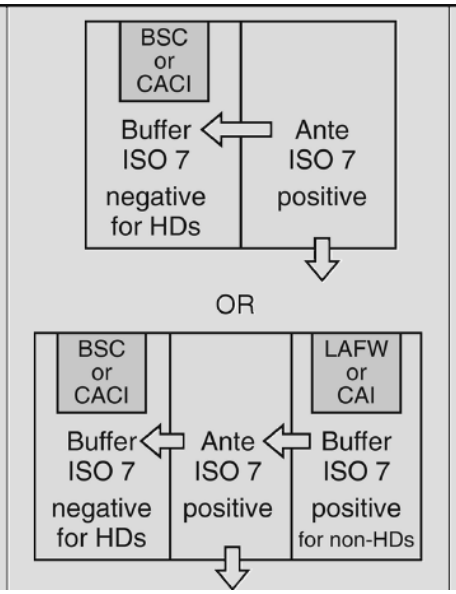
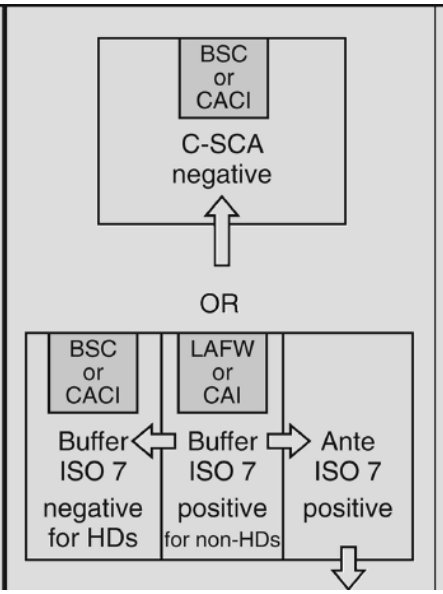
Although not a recommended facility design, if the negative-pressure HD buffer room is entered though the positive-pressure non-HD buffer room, the following is also required:

- A line of demarcation must be defined within the negative-pressure buffer room for donning and doffing PPE
- A method to transport HDs, HD CSPs, and HD waste into and out of the negative pressure buffer room to minimize the spread of HD contamination. This may be accomplished by use of a pass-through chamber between the negative-pressure buffer area and adjacent space. The pass-through chamber must be included in the facility's certification to ensure that particles are not compromising the air quality of the negative-pressure buffer room. A refrigerator pass-through must not be used. Other methods of containment (such as sealed containers) may be used.

HD CSPs prepared in an ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO Class 7 ante-room may use the BUDs described in ⟨797⟩, based on the categories of CSP, sterility testing, and storage temperature.

Containment segregated compounding area (C-SCA): The C-PEC is placed in an unclassified C-SCA that has fixed walls, a negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to all adjacent areas, and a minimum of 12 ACPH. The C-SCA must be externally vented. A hand-washing sink must be placed at least 1 meter from C-PEC and may be either inside the C-SCA or directly outside the C-SCA.

Only low- and medium-risk HD CSPs may be prepared in a C-SCA. HD CSPs prepared in the C-SCA must not exceed the BUDs described in ⟨797⟩ for CSPs prepared in a segregated compounding area.

Use	Optimal Primary and Secondary Control	Minimum ACPH
Nonsterile HD compounding		12
Sterile HD compounding		30
		12 30