

Water Provision

Not pursued as non-compliance



What happened?

- A cage of study mice were left undocked on a Greenline rack with a red flag showing following a PM 360° check. This meant the mice were unable to adequately access water from the water valve of the automated watering system and there was reduced air changes meaning a potential exposure to increased levels of ammonia in the cage.

Why did we have to report it?

- PEL 4 (3) & (5): Animals were left without access to water and there was a failure in our checking processes to identify and prevent this.

What did we change?

- No process changes were required.
- Reassessment of checking against the SOP was carried out.
- The requirement to check for red flags when docking cages was reinforced across the team affected.

What did we learn?

- The SOP in place requires that red flags be checked for when returning cages to the rack to ensure they are correctly docked.
- Normally one person will check a rack but on this occasion two technicians shared the checking. Both scanned their cages at the end of checking but missed the red flag.
- Weekend checks do not include a senior sign off which may have identified the red flag.

SC PEL Standard Conditions

4(3) Unless otherwise authorised by the Secretary of State an environment, housing, freedom of movement, food and water appropriate for the health and well-being of each protected animal shall be provided.

4(5) The health and well-being of protected animals, and the environmental conditions in all parts of the establishment where animals are kept, shall be checked at least once daily by a competent person. Arrangements shall be made to ensure any defect discovered and any avoidable pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm discovered is eliminated as quickly as possible.