

Energy Beam Sciences' Recommendations for the College of American Pathologists Anatomic Pathology Laboratory Accreditation Program Checklist

(revision effective 1/30/2008)

INTRODUCTION

In October 2005, we received the first of a growing number of inquiries regarding new College of American Pathologists (CAP) inspection requirements for microwave instrumentation. Effective 10/06/2005, there were four (4) areas of potential concern:

ANP.27720 (Annual Leakage Monitoring)
ANP.28290 (Temperature Reproducibility)
ANP.28860 (Microwave Transparent Containers)
ANP.29430 (Equipment Ventilation)

Effective December 2006, the requirement for annual leakage monitoring was eliminated, and the requirement for microwave transparent containers modified to specify vented, rather than microwave transparent, containers. However, EBS maintains that documented policies requiring use of only microwave-transparent equipment (except for EBS PolarHeat™ sheets) within any microwave, and at least annual microwave leakage measurement and logging, are always good practice. In addition, one (1) microwave-related checklist item was added; these four (4) checklist items remained unchanged with CAP's September 2007 revision:

ANP.27170 (Proper Equipment Use)
ANP.28290 (Temperature Reproducibility)
ANP.28860 (Vented Containers)
ANP.29430 (Equipment Ventilation)

ANP 27170 is significant in its global nature, requiring strict adherence to microwave manufacturers' recommendations as set forth in the equipment operator guide. This is especially important if attempts are made to "laboratory repurpose" equipment manufactured to consumer or food specifications. Owner's manuals for "non-lab" equipment usually contain disclaimer language prohibiting commercial, laboratory, or non-food use. Under ANP27170, such uses amount to deficiencies.

For complete text of the Anatomic Pathology checklist, EBS recommends you check your CAP membership package or visit the CAP website (www.cap.org); you can also contact accred@cap.org with issues connected with the CAP inspection checklist(s).

EBS RECOMMENDATIONS

Do not use ANY equipment in the laboratory in such a way that is contraindicated by manufacturer instructions. Read your owner's manuals carefully, even the "small print!"

Temperature reproducibility can be addressed by periodic manual temperature measurement and logging on a quarterly basis. In addition, documentation of microwave procedures should specify container type and placement, and the use/omission of agitation.

Microwave documentation should specify exclusive use of microwave-transparent, vented containers inside the microwave.

EBS' H2200 and H2850 microwaves feature a safety interlock preventing operation in the case of vent obstruction/failure, and self-test upon power-up, satisfying ANP 29430. H1850 and H2250 models will require periodic, manual testing and logging.

We also recommend annual microwave leakage measurement and logging using a hand-held leakage measurement device, more frequently if physical damage is suspected (e.g., damage to door or sealing surfaces).

We hope you find this information helpful!

This information is furnished without warranty, expressed or implied, except that it is accurate to the best knowledge of Energy Beam Sciences Inc. The information on this sheet relates to the specific context designated, and is not intended to imply approval or endorsement by CAP. Energy Beam Sciences Inc. assumes no legal responsibility for use or reliance upon this information. rev 2008.01.30