



Wiskerchen Cheese Inc. SOP

Title: Mercury Thermometer Clean Up

2.045

Issue Date: 6/9/09	Written By: Jesse Norton	Approved By: John Wiskerchen	Revision # 1	Revision Date: 6/16/10	Revised By: Jesse Norton	Supersedes: 6/9/09	Page 1 of 1
-----------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

Purpose:

To ensure that Wiskerchen Cheese Inc. quality staff follows procedures for isolating and cleaning up any mercury from a broken master calibrated thermometer.

The calibrated mercury thermometer is not allowed out of the quality assurance office unless it is sealed in its protective case. It is not allowed in any areas containing exposed product.

Responsibility:

Quality Assurance staff

Materials:

Green rubber gloves, glass clean up utensils, paper towels, whirl-pak bags, cardboard, pipette

1. Put on rubber gloves.
2. If there are any broken pieces of glass or sharp objects, pick them up with care. Place all broken objects on a paper towel. Fold the paper towel and place in a whirl-pak bag. Secure the bag and label it as "Contains Mercury".
3. Locate visible mercury beads. Use cardboard to gather mercury beads. Use slow sweeping motions to keep mercury from becoming uncontrollable. Take a flashlight, hold it at a low angle close to the floor in a darkened room and look for additional glistening beads of mercury that may be sticking to the surface or in small cracked areas of the surface. Note: Mercury can move surprising distances on hard-flat surfaces, so be sure to inspect the entire room when "searching."
4. Use a pipette to collect or draw up the mercury beads. Slowly and carefully squeeze mercury onto a damp paper towel. Place the paper towel in a zip lock bag and secure. Make sure to label the bag as "Contains Mercury".
5. Use duct tape to collect smaller hard-to-see beads. Place the duct tape in a whirl-pak bag and secure. Make sure to label the bag as "Contains Mercury".
6. Place all materials used with the cleanup, including gloves, in a trash bag. Place all mercury bead containing bags and objects into the trash bag. Secure trash bag and label it as "Contains Mercury".
7. Contact your local health department, municipal waste authority or your local fire department for proper disposal in accordance with local, state and federal laws.

Approved By: _____

Date: _____