



Discontinued Biosafety Cabinet Models

In reference to questions concerning older model Purifier® Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs), Labconco no longer supports our original Console Laminar Flow Biohazard Safety Cabinet (models 47720, 47721, 70720 and 70721) nor the first-generation Purifier Class II Biological Safety Cabinet (models 36204, 36205, 36208, 36209, 36212, 36213, 36210 and 36214 – built between 1984-1994) with purchased or fabricated repair parts. Since 1994, Biosafety Cabinet design and safety requirements have made significant strides.

Our general recommendation for the last several years concerning the Laminar Flow BSC and the first-generation Purifier Class II BSC is to have the unit decontaminated and decommissioned and recycle its components. This recommendation exceeds those of NSF/ANSI Standard 49 – 2020 Informative, Annex 1 (see below). For these reasons, I would like to encourage you to inform all current users of these cabinets to consider budgeting for a new cabinet in the near future.

While keeping a BSC operating indefinitely is possible, it is not practical. As with all durable goods, years of service and wear and tear can cause numerous failures. Older BSCs can exhibit some of the following: motor/blower failure due to bearing wear, wiring system failure caused by insulation breakdown, and deterioration or failure of gaskets. While tempting, keeping these systems going through "one" apparent problem, work typically illuminates other issues. The repair process itself can cause additional complications. Given the high cost of some repair parts, labor and certification, owners of cabinets over 15 years old should weigh the cost/benefit of buying a new system.

Labconco is currently producing the Sixth generation of Purifier® Biological Safety Cabinets, the Logic®+ and Axiom Series. This new generation of cabinets provides the maximum level of safety, performance, and ergonomic design to maximize operator comfort and reduce repetitive stress type injuries.

After 15 years, replacement parts may or may not be available due to electrical or mechanical changes at the factory or industrial part suppliers. For example, magnetic ballasts and T12 fluorescent bulbs may not be available. In addition, today's BSCs have evolved through the years with many improvements in containment, ergonomics, serviceability, and energy efficiency. These points should be considered in a BSC repair versus replacement decision.

Excerpt from NSF/ANSI 49 – 2020 Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification.

I-1.9 BSC lifespan

The current lifespan of a BSC is approximately 15 years. Use of modern day BSCs began in the early 1970s with BSCs that were manufactured to the NIH-03-112C



Standard and subsequently the NSF/ANSI 49. BSCs manufactured in the 1970s, 1980s, and early 1990s have provided over 15 years of service. Several considerations should be made of BSCs in this age group:

- will the BSC need extensive service? (i.e., HEPA/ULPA filter replacement, blower / motor replacement, will the electrical wire harnesses need replacement, etc.)
- can an older BSC be commissioned after it has been in storage or purchased as a resale?
- will original test reports be available or will the BSC be commissioned to current NSF Standards?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Labconco appreciates your business and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Dille". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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