

Procedure: IACUC-16  
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**UC Davis  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

**Title: *Temperature Alarms in Animal Facilities***

**I. Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to define when centrally monitored temperature alarms, with a system that provides 24/7 alarm notifications, are required in animal housing rooms. Temperature alarms provide a mechanism to ensure room temperatures are maintained within the ranges necessary and prevent any animal health or welfare concerns. These alarms are not a substitute for routine temperature monitoring (e.g., daily temperature logs) to ensure the recommended temperature range for animal well-being is maintained on a daily basis.

The alarms are a back-up system installed to aid in maintaining the well-being of the animals in the housing area, as well as reducing unintended variables that may impact research studies.

**II. Policy:**

The IACUC has determined that temperature alarms must be installed in all indoor animal housing areas, excluding barns and sheltered housing areas. The requirement for temperature alarms within a proposed laboratory space housing area will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Animal housing for aquatic species may not need “room temperature alarms”, if the equipment (i.e., pumps, filters) and/or tanks that hold the animals are alarmed in some manner and a notification system provides immediate contact to the facility manager or designee for any out-of-range occurrences.

In some animal housing areas, a central alarm may be appropriate. The IACUC may also require additional rooms be alarmed or require redundancy within alarm systems. These requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Daily temperature logs must be maintained to document that temperatures are within the ranges required by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the ILAR Guide. Temperature alarms are intended to detect HVAC system failure; they are a backup mechanism for daily temperature checks they are not a replacement.

Thermometers (minimum/maximum values) are to be reset daily to ensure accurate readings are recorded within the last 24 hours.

### III. **Procedure:**

It is the responsibility of the Scientist-in-Charge (SIC) and Technician-in-Charge (TIC) to ensure that all animal rooms in their facilities that fall in the above categories are properly alarmed prior to housing animals. The SIC and TIC must also establish a notification system for alarm response and ensure the notification call list is updated as personnel changes occur. Updates must be sent to [alarmupdate@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alarmupdate@ucdavis.edu) to inform Facilities Management and verify the current contact information in the event of an alarm.

To have alarms installed or to request an estimate, place a work order with Facilities Management at <https://facilities.ucdavis.edu/>. In the event of an emergency call facilities at 530-752-1655.

If an alarm is triggered in a facility, the facility staff must notify the attending veterinarian or designee immediately for any animal welfare emergencies or for an HVAC concern that cannot be remedied within 4 hours.

If there is an HVAC concern that cannot be remedied within 4 hours and/or an animal welfare emergency facility staff must notify the attending veterinarian or designee immediately.

### IV. **Resources:**

1. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>
2. ILAR, Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals  
<http://nap.edu/12910>