

# Safetygram

NCI-Frederick

ISM-150

Laboratory Personnel

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## Electrophoresis Equipment

Preventative Maintenance for electrophoresis equipment is extremely important. A thorough weekly visual inspection of your apparatus should include the following:

**Powercords** – Visually inspect for exposed wires, corroded ends, and loss of flexibility. Faulty cords are a potential fire hazard and may cause electrical shock if not in good working order. Replace defective cords and properly discard old power cords. Extension cords should not be used.

**Banana Jacks and Electrodes** - Look for corrosion, loose or unstable plugs, and corroded electrode connection nuts. These problems will affect the reproducibility of your experiment and is a potential fire hazard.

**Gaskets** - Aging gaskets lose their elasticity and develop leaks that place you, your research, and your equipment in danger. Replace faulty gaskets immediately. Faulty gaskets may cause electrical arcing and sparking which can lead to a fire.

**Safety Covers** – EHS recommends using a unit that has a safety cover over the buffer chambers. This encloses the gel separation assembly and reduces the possibility of electrical shock.

**Note:** Electrophoresis equipment should not be altered at anytime. Equipment alterations may void manufacturer's warranties and place personnel and the unit at risk.

If you have any questions regarding the safe use of electrophoresis equipment, please call EHS at x1451.