

Equipment Services

Lab shutdown/startup best practices

Lab shutdowns, increased workloads, and the inability to get equipment serviced are some of the issues you may be facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The equipment services team can help address important questions regarding service, calibration, and best practices in bringing down labs, as well as bringing labs back on-line. We've put together these best practices to help you in your lab operations.

1. Shutting down the laboratory

- Prior to shut down, perform a calibration serving as a baseline when laboratory operations resume.
- Fume hoods – close the sash.
- Refrigerators/freezers/incubators – leave powered on; doors closed tightly/taped shut.
- Heat generating equipment (hot/stir plates, ovens) – power off.
- Gas cylinders – remove regulators, close gas valves, secure in upright position.
- If a low flow of inert gas is being used to “blanket” a reactive compound or mixture, contact management to determine if the gas flow should remain on.
- Non-essential electrical devices – power off, cover.
- If electronic equipment has an auto-start function, disable.
- Safely store and secure all hazardous material.
- Flow systems/liquid chromatography - Follow manufacturer's flushing/rinsing and storage procedures (i.e. buffers, solvents, columns, etc.)
- Laboratory computers/instrument control - shut down non-essential computer systems
 - Remove samples from equipment and instruments and store according to GLP
 - Decontaminate equipment and lab benches where required

2. Additional laboratory checks

- Check back up power system.
- Verify critical equipment is tied to back up power.
- Verify intellectual property is safely secured.

3. Resuming laboratory operations

- Visually inspect the laboratory to determine condition.
- Assess alarming equipment.
- Calibrate all equipment to assess performance after period of inactivity. Compare to the calibration baseline taken at laboratory shutdown.

4. What to expect...and how to navigate

- Power outages – ensure critical equipment is connected to back-up power.
- Temperature swings – utilize remote temperature monitoring devices.
- Water leakage – secure equipment away from water sources and store intellectual property in water-proof containers.

How Avantor Services can help

Our mission of setting science in motion is more meaningful now than ever before. With over 20+ years' experience and extensive knowledge in regulated laboratory environments, Avantor Services has an extensive equipment services organization with fully certified technicians and workshops. In addition, we partner with numerous authorized Service Partners to meet your needs. As a valued Avantor customer we are here to support your operational needs.

Should you require services during a shutdown and/or resumption of laboratory activities please contact our local Avantor Services team for support.

How to contact us and "request to Call Back"

Please visit vwr.com/eis and find your local contact person or simply use our "request to callback" form that you can access via the top banner on every webpage.

To learn more about our on-site qualifications (IQ/OQ/PQ), preventative maintenance, and calibrations please visit us on the web at: vwr.com/eis