

## Media Bottle Sterilization Procedure

**Purpose of the safety bulletin:** To help the research community avoid unnecessary fire alarms and delays in laboratory activities.

Sterilization of laboratory media bottles for POM (Particulate Organic Material) is a critical step to ensure accuracy in laboratory experiments. Recently, a batch of approximately 35 clear Fisherbrand bottles was sterilized for such use due to a shortage of the usual brown bottles. The clear bottles came from the manufacturer with a drip-free polypropylene pour ring – an accessory absent from the brown bottles – and were sterilized via dry heat in a furnace for 4 hours at 450°C. Unfortunately, the pour rings were not removed from the bottles beforehand. The mishap filled the laboratory with obnoxious odors at which point a bystander sounded the alarm to dispatch the fire department.

**Recommendation:** Laboratories should develop an SOP to ensure the plastic pour ring is removed when clear media bottles are used.



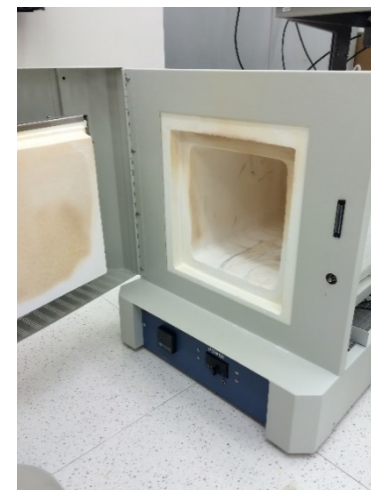
Normal bottle used for POM



Bottle with plastic pour ring



Bottles depicting plastic pour ring residue after burnout



Stained furnace insulation