The KI (potassium iodide) discus test is defined in the European Standard for microbiological safety cabinets, EN12469:2000, as a test method for validating the operator protection capabilities of Class I and Class II openfronted microbiological safety cabinets.





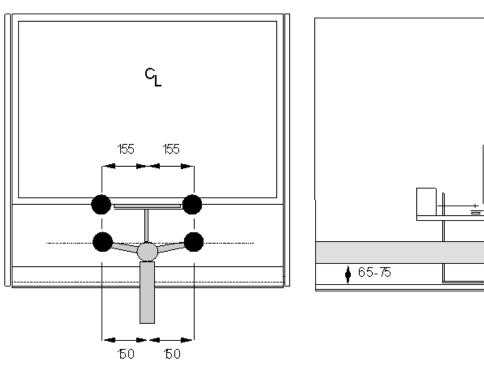


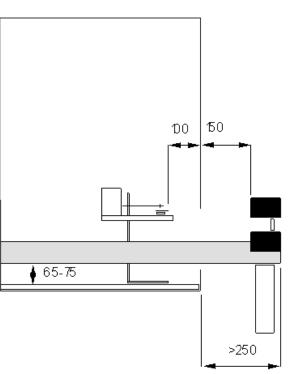
spinning disc aerosol generator

air sampler

artificial arm

KI-Discus arrangement - Class II cabinet







3 micron, 25mm, CN filter in each air sampler

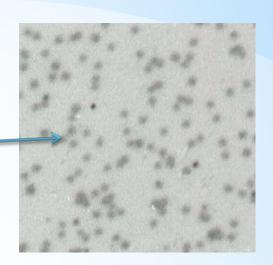
20 ml of potassium iodide solution is dispensed via peristaltic pump onto the spinning disc aerosol generator over the course of a 9 minute run while air is drawn through the 4 samplers/filters at a rate of 100 litres/minute. One KI test consists of 5 separate runs. New filters are used for each run.

Palladium chloride



Filters are removed from the air samplers after each run and placed in palladium chloride solution. Any droplets of KI trapped by the filters appear as grey/brown dots after approximately 10 seconds. Filters are then rinsed in water and air dried.





A magnifier is used to identify and count the number of grey/brown dots on each filter.

The standard dictates that all 20 filters (4 filters x 5 runs) must each have fewer than 62 dots for the cabinet to pass the test.

Why 62 dots?

According to the standard, a microbiological safety cabinet must provide an operator protection factor (O_{pf}) of not less than 100000.

$$O_{pf} = (N \times V) / (10^4 \times n)$$

N: number of particles liberated = $3.1 \times 10^7 \times M$

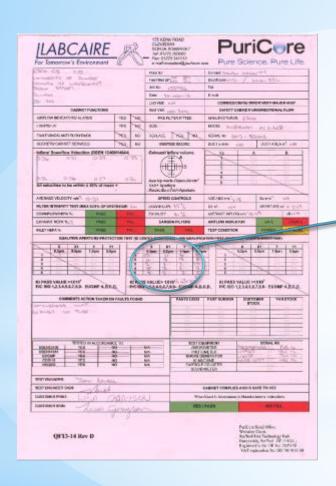
M: volume of KI dispensed = 20 ml

V: sampling flow rate = 100 dm³/min

n: the number of brown dots captured

Therefore $O_{pf} = 6200000 / n$

When n = 62, $O_{pf} = 100000$



	X	X1	Y	Y1
	-0.3µm	0.5µm	1.0µm	5.0µm
1	Y3VA	MA	6/A	SVA
2	LOVA	3/A	131/A	
3	2N/A	N/A .	N/A	A MINISTER
4	SETA	SIA	N/A	WA
5	ST/A	2N/A	9/4	SN/A
(I PA	SS VALUE O 1,2,3,4,	E> 1X10 ⁵ 5,6,7,8,9	L.LOXIC	A,B,C,E