**Purpose**

The purpose of this SOP is to describe and explain the procedure of how to decontaminate the FLUOStar Omega Plate Reader and effectively use and maintain the machine in a laboratory setting.

**Scope of policy**

This SOP aims to instruct the user on how to decontaminate the FLUOstar Omega plate reader. This equipment should only be handled by trained personnel. Appropriate PPE should always be worn when handling/cleaning the plate reader.

**Introduction**

The FLUOstar Omega is a multi-mode microplate reader with three detection modes. It utilises an ultra-fast UV/vis spectrometer or filters for absorbance as well as highly sensitive filters for all other detection modes. The FLUOstar Omega is the ideal plate reader for life science applications.

**Safety**

Only trained personnel (must be trained by BMG Labtech) are allowed to operate the machine.

Ensure the correct PPE is always worn, trained personnel should be wearing protective gloves and protective clothing during the disinfection procedure.

Turn off equipment and the main switch before decontamination.

The location of where the procedure is to be carried out should be well ventilated.

**Materials**

1) 1% Virkon or Chemgene

2) 70% Ethanol

**Decontamination Procedure**

1. Clean all surfaces around the instrument that can be reached within 1 metre. Use Chemgene or Virkon to wet the surfaces. The Chemgene or Virkon should be left on for a period of 10 minutes.

2. Disconnect the instrument from the main power supply and ensure there is good ventilation in the area.

3. Unplug the instrument's USB and mains power cable.

4. Cotton swabs dipped in disinfectant solution (Virkon) should be used to wipe off the external surfaces and the plate carrier.

5. After 10 minutes, dry the area and wash it with 70% Ethanol.

6. Laptop - use 70% alcohol wipes to clean the keyboard and case; only use dedicated screen wipes on displays.

7. Take off your gloves and wash your hands for 20 seconds.

**Additional Steps if instrument is routinely exposes to hazardous substances**

8. Place the instrument in a big plastic bag with the cotton wool that has been soaked in Virkon solution. Make sure the wool does not come into contact with the instrument.

9. Tighten and seal the bag.

10. Keep the instrument in the plastic bag for a minimum of 24 hours.

11. Take the instrument out of the plastic bag when the time for disinfection has finished, and wipe off all of the outside surfaces using cotton wool dipped in the disinfection solution.

12. Repeat the disinfecting procedure on any accessories