Quick Reference: ALTERNATIVES TO CONTINUOUS FLAMES USED IN A BIOSAFETY CABINET

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SAFE FLAME ALTERNATIVES

Safe Gas Burners:

- Have adjustable burning time.
- Should have an independent source of power from the main electric or gas supply
- Are economical
- Occupy a relatively small footprint
- Must be activated by touch
- Are safe and simple to operate.

PROHIBITED

Continuous FLAMES are PROHIBITED for use in Biosafety Cabinets! Use safe alternatives listed here.

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Safe Alternative Options to Continuous Flam Bunsen Burners (shown above):

- Bacticinerator
- Touch-O-Matic
- Glass Bead Sterilizer
- Safety Lab Gas Burner
- Mini Propane Torch

DISADVANTAGES TO CONTINUOUS FLAME

- Direct Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) hook-up to the building's central gas line is prohibited.
- Use of continuous flame in the BSC will void the manufacturer's warranties on the cabinet and HEPA filter as well as the UL approval.
- Continuously burning flames disturb the airflow in BSCs, causing potentially infectious air to escape.
- Heat from the continuous flame can damage cabinet structure and HEPA filter.
- Flammable chemicals used in BSCs become concentrated through air recirculation. Concentrated flammable vapors can ignite with an open flame and explode in the cabinet.