

# Preventing Potential Rotor Hazards

## Checklist for Your Lab

### Inspecting the Rotor and Bottles and Tubes

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- Confirm that the centrifuge and rotor are part of the same manufacturer and centrifuge system.
- Inspect the rotor and tube cavities for signs of damage and discontinue use if damaged.
- Inspect the speed disk for sign of damage if using an ultra-speed unit and discontinue use if damaged.
- Verify that the bottles and tubes are chemically compatible with the sample and that they can achieve maximum speed needed.
- Inspect the bottles, tubes, and O-rings (lubricate with vacuum grease, if needed) for signs of damage (i.e. cracks or discoloration) and discontinue use if they are damaged.

### Pre-Run Checklist: Balancing the Rotor

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- Confirm bottles, tubes, and adapters are in good condition.
- If using biocontainment lids, ensure O-rings are lubricated with vacuum grease and are **not** cracked.
- Balance the bottles and tubes.

If using a swinging bucket rotor, follow these additional workplace practice controls:

- Ensure all metal buckets are in place.
- Use matching buckets, caps, and adapters.
- Load symmetrical to axis of rotation and to pivotal axis within the manufacturer's recommended load tolerance.
- Ensure buckets are properly seated to the rotor and the rotor is properly attached to the centrifuge spindle.

If using a fixed angle rotor, follow these additional workplace practice controls:

- Tighten rotor lid correctly.
- Properly install and attach rotor to spindle.
- Gently pull up on the rotor to confirm rotor is attached.

### Post-Run Checklist

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- If applicable, complete Rotor Log Book with information about run date, duration, speed, total rotor revolutions, and notes about the rotor condition.
- Remove rotor from centrifuge and clean the inside of the centrifuge.
- Properly clean the rotor with gentle dish detergent and de-ionized water and store it upside down in an appropriate location after each use.