



LABORATORIES

Health, Safety & the Environment

at Carnegie Mellon University

A Newsletter from Carnegie Mellon University's Chemical Hygiene Officer

June 2006

Chemical Hygiene Training Review (Part 1 of 12)

Each month in this newsletter, a section of the Lab Safety training information is presented for review. Monthly reading of this will help refresh lab workers of these important safety items.

Topic of the Month – Chemical Maintenance and Inventory

As one of the final action items resulting from last summer's environmental audit of our campus, we are asking all laboratory PI's to ensure that a review of their chemical inventory has been performed. Specifically, we need to ensure that all "inherently waste-like" chemicals have been removed from the inventory and disposed of properly. Inherently-waste-like materials are defined by the EPA as those items for which no reliable use can be anticipated or identified, and specifically include:

- Containers that are not clearly labeled with the contents or have labels that are old, faded, torn or otherwise unreadable (*EPA feels that these cannot be reliably used in experimentation*)
- Containers with labels that only indicate a sample number or chemical formula, and NOT the proper name (*EPA feels that these cannot be reliably identified by most lab workers*)
- Very old containers that are no longer in good condition or do not properly contain the chemical (*EPA feels that these hold a potential for release of the hazardous contents*)
- Containers where the contents are no longer usable, either by having reacted, expired, polymerized, separated, crystallized or in any other similar way are no longer suitable (*EPA feels that these cannot be reliably used in experimentation*)

In our compliance agreement, the University has stated that it will request a signed statement from all PI's that their inventory has been reviewed and that all items meeting the above criteria have been removed for proper disposal. PIs should be receiving this statement and the request to sign off on it within the next few weeks. This will be an annual activity for our laboratories and will be due July 30, 2006.

EH&S further understands that for a few laboratories, there may be thousands of chemicals to review for these criteria and that the time frame may be difficult to accommodate. For these limited situations, members of EH&S and/or the University's Laboratory Safety Committee will *assist* in the review. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact me at markb2@andrew.cmu.edu. Remember, this is ONLY for very large chemical inventories!

Summer Updates

As in previous years, you should be receiving a visit over the summer from our office intern. This summer Kaylie Thompson will visit your lab (if she has not already been there) to update our database with contact names and numbers, as well as ensuring that the emergency response door signs have current, accurate information. She will also be looking at hazardous waste accumulation areas for compliance issues. Please be sure to provide Kaylie with the cooperation that she needs.

Empty Bottles

We are frequently asked about the proper way to dispose of emptied chemical containers. Here is our process:

- After all of the chemical has been removed, rinse the container clean to remove any residual material that may pose a hazard to anyone handling the container (such as a custodian, the waste hauler or recycler.)
- Deface the label of the container, to prevent any confusion on the part of a subsequent handler as to the contents or hazard of the container.
- Broken glass containers can go into your broken glass box. Intact glass containers should best be put into glass recycling and other containers can go into the standard trash

If you have any concern about the container of an especially toxic material, contact Jeff Harris at jjharris@andrew.cmu.edu for further information.

Laboratory Inspections

Also beginning this summer, our Lab Auditor, Michael Fouch, will begin a new cycle of lab inspections. As before, he will contact the PIs prior to his visit and will perform the full audit of both laboratory safety and hazardous waste requirements that the University has in place for labs.

Upcoming Training—June & July 2006

The Hazardous Waste and Lab Safety Training will be held from 9:30 AM to Noon on these dates:

Wednesday, June 14th and Wednesday, July 12th in Mellon Institute 348

Thursday, June 29th and in Doherty Hall 4303

Thursday, July 27th at a location to be announced

To enroll for a class, please go to this link on the EH&S web page to signup:

http://128.2.47.78/Training/Class_Reg/LSHWclassreq.php

Upcoming Waste Pick-ups

The following waste pick-ups are scheduled for June and July:

From Mellon Institute, 9:30 - 11:30 AM: **June 6 and June 20, July 5* and July 18**

From Wean and Doherty Halls, 12:30 - 3:00 PM: **June 6 and June 20, July 5* and July 18**

From Porter, Roberts, Hammerschlag and other main campus areas, 9:30 - 11:30 AM: **Jun 7, Jul 6***

From PTC: **June 7 and July 6,*** in the afternoon

From Penn Avenue and Robotics Engineering Consortium: Next pick-up is **August 17**

Computers will be picked up **June 8 and July 6 (Thursdays)**

***NOTE: Change in day of the week due to the Independence Day holiday.**

Remember, you need to be present in the lab for the pick-up--if you cannot, make prior arrangements with EH&S to ensure access to the waste.

Do you need hazardous waste supplies such as bottle labels, waste tags or secondary containment? If so, make an on-line request at:

http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/Waste_and_Recycling_Programs/Haz_Waste/hazardouswaste.htm#HWCertTags

Please print out this newsletter and post or circulate it in your lab!!