

Training Topic of the Month:



All new laboratory employees must received Laboratory Safety training from EH&S as a requirement of the OSHA Laboratory Standard. While there is no OSHA requirement for refresher training in lab safety, we feel that regular review of lab safety topics is essential to a safe work place. Monthly reading of this newsletter will provide such a review. This month's topic is "**Chemical Inventory and Maintenance**".

There are requirements under both OSHA and the EPA for laboratories to maintain all chemical containers in a safe manner and also to ensure that an accurate chemical inventory exists for the lab.

The first step for compliance is to ensure that **ALL** containers have a proper label.

- The label must indicate the identity of the contents, using the full, proper name(s). Sample numbers or chemical formulae are ***not permitted*** as the sole identifier.
- Labels must not be faded, torn or otherwise unreadable. (The EPA will consider these items to be hazardous waste and fines may ensue due to improper chemical management.)
- Material in containers that are no longer in good condition or do not properly contain the chemical must be disposed of or transferred to suitable containers.
- 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 for storage and must be disposed of.

- All chemical containers must be stored in suitable cabinets or shelves, and away from incompatible materials. For example, flammables in flammable storage cabinets, corrosives in corrosive storage, flammables separated from oxidizers, acids and bases separated.

Additionally, the university requires that all chemical owners maintain a current inventory in the Chemtracker system. This online system, accessible through the EH&S web page, is essential in helping the university manage its requirements regarding building code limitations, Homeland Security requirements, fire and emergency response, as well as locating hazardous materials.

With some great nagging and hair-pulling (metaphorically, of course), most of our chemicals owners are now complying with the inventory requirements, though there are some stragglers left behind. We will evaluate inventory compliance in each laboratory's annual EH&S inspection.

Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Waste Training

June 3, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	MI 434	June 16, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	UC Rangos I
July 8, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	MI 434	July 24, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	To be announced

To register, go to <http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/training/index.html> and click on "Lab Safety and Hazardous Waste."

As a special service, EH&S has prepared hazardous waste accumulation postings in other languages, to offer a more familiar way to remind lab workers of these requirements. Please check out our web page <http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/chemical/waste/index.html> to view and print out these postings. Let us know if you would like another language represented and we will try to oblige.

Disposal of “Empty” Chemical Containers

At couple of times a year, EH&S gets contacted by a panicked facilities worker, custodian or visitor who has encountered a “nearly empty” chemical container in the trash or in the hallway. They are panicked because the container label often lists serious hazards or often the container “just looks dangerous”. And sometimes, they **ARE** indeed still dangerous. To prevent both *real* and *perceived* hazards related to container disposal, please do the following:

- Empty all containers as completely as possible, either by use or by disposal of the contents into a hazardous waste accumulation container appropriate for the hazard.
- For water soluble materials, rinse the remaining traces of chemical into the sink with COPIOUS amounts of water. If the material is a high hazard item, omit this last step and turn the container itself in as hazardous waste.
- Remove, obliterate or obscure the container label. Alternatively, you can mark the container label “clean and empty”.
- The cleaned, unidentifiable container may be then placed in a glass recycling container, or in your broken glass container (regardless of whether it is broken or not).

Fines in UCLA Fatal Accident

About three weeks ago, I forwarded a link to you regarding fines related to a fatal accident at UCLA, associated with the use of t-butyl lithium, a pyrophoric material. The fines were designed to address violations of the school’s safety procedures and policies, and included not correcting deficiencies found in a recent lab audit, and insufficient training of laboratory personnel. The fines do NOT address the circumstances that a death occurred—those may be addressed in the future in criminal charges, though no charges of this type have yet been issued.

Obviously, we have lab inspections here and also training requirements for our workers.

Deficiencies found in any circumstances must be corrected as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. EH&S will continue to be vigilant in following up on issues resulting from our laboratory inspections and all research personnel must understand that the correction of inspection deficiencies are a critical part of their duties.

Shipping Tip: Did you know that dry ice is considered a hazardous material when it is being shipped? Any shipment with dry ice present must be coordinated through EH&S to ensure that all appropriate DOT specifications are met. Contact us at 8-8182 for further information.

Hazardous Waste Pick-up Schedule		
Mellon Institute	Jun 9,23 Jul 7,21	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Wean and Doherty Halls	Jun 9,23 Jul 7,21	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
All other main campus locations	Jun 10 Jul 8	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
PTC	Jun 10 Jul 8	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Penn Ave., Robotics Consortium	Jul 22	
Computers	Jun 4,8 Jul 2,6	
To request a waste pick-up or receive waste labels, secondary containment or tags, go to: http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/chemical/waste/index.html		