



LABORATORIES

Health, Safety & the Environment

at Carnegie Mellon University

A Newsletter from Carnegie Mellon University's Chemical Hygiene Officer

May 2007

Lab Safety Review

All new laboratory employees must receive 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 "Regulatory Overview". The OSHA Laboratory Standard addresses worker exposures to hazardous chemicals in laboratories. It specifies that employers are **required** to do a number of things to ensure the safety of laboratory workers:

1. Prepare a written Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) that outlines how the employer will comply with the regulation and make this document available to all laboratory personnel. Carnegie Mellon's CHP is available on the EH&S web site, <http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/pdf/CHPFinal.pdf>. All lab personnel should know where to access this program, should they be asked this by an OSHA official during an inspection.
2. Provide training to new employees or employees with changes in lab activity. EH&S offers this training on a monthly basis; all new employees should take this class within 30 days of the start of their work in a lab. The training includes details of the OSHA standard and of the CHP. It also includes information on working safety in the lab, reading MSDS and labels, using protective equipment and responding to emergencies. While the training supplies some details, it is the individual lab's responsibility to provide the specific procedures of the handling of its particular chemicals. EH&S is happy to assist in this lab-specific activity.
3. Ensure that worker exposures to hazardous chemicals are kept below the OSHA permitted levels.
4. Provide medical consultation to employees who may have been overexposed to hazardous chemicals.

We think we have a good, thorough program to address all of these items. If you have any questions regarding our OSHA Lab Standard activities, please contact EH&S at 8-8182.

It is also important to remember that EH&S offers training classes for other required activities on campus. Employees who work with biological agents or human blood, cell lines or tissue must attend Biological Safety Training and/or Bloodborne Pathogens training. Employees who work with either radioactive material (sealed or unsealed) or any radiation producing device, must attend appropriate safety training for these issues. Finally, employees who work with lasers should attend Laser Safety Training. Contact Mark Banister at 8-1493 if you have any questions about these other training requirement or if you have any questions as to whether you need a particular class.

EH&S Summer Staff

This summer, we will have two interns working with us, and one or both are likely to be visiting your laboratory. Their tasks will include testing your fume hoods as well as updating information on your lab's hazards and emergency contacts, to help us maintain an accurate database for the University's

Emergency Operations Plan. Plus the "other duties as assigned" tasks common to all our job descriptions!

Jared Incorvati is a Junior Chemistry major here at Carnegie Mellon, and Jacob Coffelt is a sophomore in Mechanical Engineering. We welcome them to your laboratories and give them the assistance they need when they stop by.

Sandals and Such in the Lab

It's that time of the year where we all need to remember that sandals and open-toed shoes are NOT permitted in our laboratories, per the university's Chemical Hygiene Plan. The risk of exposure to hazardous materials (not to mention sharps or broken glass) is too great to permit these to be worn. Given the warmer weather, we recommend that you keep a pair of appropriate lab shoes at your desk to change into so that you can wear sandals and open-toed shoes for your non-lab activities.

Upcoming Training—May and June 2007

The next Hazardous Waste and Lab safety training classes will be held from 9:30 AM to Noon on Wednesday, **May 16** in Mellon Institute 348 and on Thursday, **June 7** in Hamburg Hall 1003. To enroll, please sign up at:

http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Training/ClassDescriptons/training_laboratory_safety.htm

At this time of the year, many labs have an increased number of incoming workers arriving for summer employment. Please contact Mark Banister at markb2@andrew.cmu.edu if you would like to schedule a special training class for these workers.

Upcoming Waste Pick-ups

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

From Mellon Institute, 9:30 - 11:30 AM: **May 8, 22 and June 5, 19**

From Wean and Doherty Halls, 12:30 - 3:00 PM: **May 8, 22 and June 5, 19**

From Porter, Roberts, Hammerschlag and other main campus locations, 9:30 - 11:30 AM: **May 9, June 6**

From PTC: **May 9 and June 6** in the afternoon

From Penn Avenue and Robotics Engineering Consortium: Next pick-up is **May 23**

Computers will be picked up **May 10 and June 7**

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, go to

http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Waste_Recycling/HazardousWaste.htm#HWCertTags

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