

## LABORATORY COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY

Due to the highly enforced environmental regulations, it is imperative that hazardous waste compliance in laboratories become a high priority for researchers. Top management support plays an important role in establishing this precedence. The laboratory safety culture greatly depends on the safe working habits of laboratory supervisors who instill safety habits upon other laboratory personnel.

To ensure compliance with the EPA and the various state regulatory agencies, please follow the safety practices outlined below:

- 1.) Always wear appropriate PPE (lab coats and safety glasses at a minimum) when handling hazardous materials.
- 2.) Do not accumulate more than 55 gallons of hazardous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste in any one designated satellite accumulation area.
- 3.) Absolutely no chemicals or hazardous waste should be disposed of via the building drainage system or in the regular trash.
- 4.) Chemical waste containers must be labeled in English with the words "hazardous waste". The label must also include the full chemical name, hazard class and date from the start of accumulation (i.e. methanol- flammable - 8/30/07). No abbreviations, chemical formulas or trade names can be used.
- 5.) Chemical mixtures should have the percentages of hazardous ingredients (i.e. acetone 40%, methanol 40%, cyclohexane 20%).
- 6.) Chemical waste containers must be compatible with the contents of the container. Leave room for expansion, do not fill containers to the top!
- 7.) Chemical waste containers must be in good condition with no rust, pinholes, leaks, or chemical deposits on the outside of container.
- 8.) Chemical waste container must be kept closed at all times with a proper cap, unless material is being added or removed from the container. Note: having a funnel in a bottle does not constitute a closed container.
- 9.) Chemical waste must be in containers segregated by hazard class (i.e., acids separated from bases and flammables).
- 10.) Keep hazardous waste at or near the site of generation. Chemical waste containers are to be stored only in designated satellite accumulation areas. Do not move waste containers outside the satellite accumulation area.
- 11.) Anticipate full chemical waste containers, and call DCS at 732-424-1998 for the proper removal of your hazardous chemical waste.
- 12.) Prevent the generation of "unknowns" by labeling all containers appropriately. Unknowns cannot be disposed of without characterization. Please call 732-424-1998 for more information about characterization procedures and disposal options.

