



The Lab Rat NEWS

February 2013

Hazardous Waste Compliance for Laboratories

Federal regulations governing management of chemical waste are written and enforced with the goal of protecting our environment. EHSO interprets these very complex regulations and implements programs, such as the Laboratory Self-Inspection Program, that assist laboratories with compliance. The lab inspection process is a tool researchers should use to evaluate compliance with laboratory waste management. This includes proper management and disposal of hazardous chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and items that are classified as 'Universal Waste' (used batteries, mercury thermometers, aerosol cans, fluorescent lamps, and electronic waste). Occasionally, **State of Georgia regulators will visit to verify Emory's continuing commitment to environmental protection. It should be noted that the State has the ability to issue monetary penalties for violations.** Therefore, it is important to ensure that any chemical waste or Universal Waste generated in your lab is disposed of properly through EHSO. The following points are reminders of how chemical and Universal Waste should be managed.

Use the Chemical Waste Management Checklist below to ensure you are handling chemical waste properly:

- All chemicals are disposed of through EHSO. No other method is acceptable without EHSO evaluation.
- Waste containers are labeled with EHSO provided label and constituents are identified with the complete chemical name.
- All chemical waste containers are closed except at the time they are being filled. Tubes from analytical instruments must be sealed within the cap.
- Chemicals are stored in EHSO provided containers .
- HPLC waste may be collected in containers that will accept tubes from the instrument .
- Chemical waste is stored by compatibility groups.
- When chemical waste is stored near a drain it is in a secondary container such as a polypropylene tray.
- "Legacy" chemicals are unused for 10+ years and/or show signs of container deterioration.
- Chemical containers that are p-listed (see [link](#) for chemical list) are disposed of via EHSO.
- Chemically contaminated debris is disposed through EHSO.
- Photo processors are equipped with a silver recovery system.

Universal Waste Management Checklist:

- Pharmaceuticals (non-DEA): Pharmaceuticals are disposed through EHSO
- Batteries are labeled as "Used Battery" and with the date removed from service. Alkaline batteries are exempt.
- Mercury thermometers: Place in a box and label "Used Mercury Containing Device(s)" and the date removed from service.
- Aerosol cans
- Fluorescent lamps: Label as "Used Lamps" and date removed from service
- Electronic waste (electronic components, computers, etc.): Identify as "E-Waste for recycling."

Training

Most of EHSO's Trainings are available online. www.ehso.emory.edu for registration information.

Radiation Safety Training
2nd Tuesdays at 10:00 am
Laboratory Safety Training
3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am

Chemical/Radioactive Waste Pick-up Schedule

[Full Schedule here...](#)

All **chemical** waste pick up should be requested by emailing

chemwaste@emory.edu

All **radioactive** waste pick up should be requested via EHS Assist pick-up.

Chemical waste disposal inventory form and/or **radioactive** waste inventory form should accompany all waste containers at the time of pick-up.

PPE

Choice to be based on potential exposures involved:

Eye: Glasses, goggles & face shields

Gloves: Appropriate for the type of procedure
Clothing: Gowns, lab coats, aprons, coveralls

Respirators: Appropriate for the type of procedure

EHSO would like to urge you to stay vigilant regarding the management of chemical waste as **State inspections are unannounced**. Please contact our office at (404) 727-5922 with questions regarding waste management. EHSO will be happy to visit your lab and assist you.

Changes to the NIH Guidelines & Biosafety Training

On September 12th, 2012, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) published a revision to the *NIH Guidelines* that will go into effect on March 5th, 2013. The most significant change to the *Guidelines* was the incorporation of research involving synthetic nucleic acid molecules. Due to the inclusion of these experiments to the document, the NIH changed the name of the *Guidelines to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules*. Details regarding all of the revisions may be found on the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities website: http://oba.od.nih.gov/rdna/nih_guidelines_oba.html



Due to the *NIH Guidelines'* change in scope, EHSO is working to revise the Biosafety Notice of Intent Form and the newly implemented Biosafety Training (available in the Emory Learning Management System) to encompass all changes. Please be sure to always download forms from the EHSO website to ensure you are using the latest version.

Does Your Lab Require a Department of Defense Certificate of Environmental Compliance?

To obtain a signature on the Department of Defense Certificate of Environmental Compliance (DOD-CEC) from the Director of EHSO, each PI will need to submit the following documents: Scientific Abstract from Grant Proposal, PI Assurance document, and the Certificate of Environmental Compliance. EHSO will conduct a lab inspection, review the scientific abstract, and verify the PI's Biosafety Protocol status. After these steps are successfully completed, the signed CEC will be sent to the designated lab contact. For more information on the DOD-CEC process, contact your Research Safety Building Liaison.

Online Training Courses

- This is a quick reminder that EHSO's online training courses are no longer located in Blackboard (classes.emory.edu). The Research Laboratory Safety Training, the Bloodborne Pathogen Training, and the Biosafety Training are now available in the Emory Learning Management System (<http://elmpod.emory.edu>)
- Guest user accounts can be requested for students that are not enrolled at Emory or lab personnel that are not employees of the University. Please contact your EHSO Building Liaison to submit your request.

Notice

Signature indicates: I have read and I understand the information in this issue of Lab Rat Newsletter. Use an additional sheet of paper for more signatures, if needed and attach to this document.

• This newsletter is a tool to help fulfill a legal requirement for ongoing safety training.

• Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that individuals in their area have read and understood the information that applies to their area.

• The signed newsletter should be placed into the PIs EHSO Lab Safety Binder.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Eye Wash Testing

Lab personnel should test the eyewash station once a month.

Certifications

Bio-safety Cabinets/ Geiger Meters and Chemical Fume Hoods Certification required annually.

Fire Extinguishers

Visual fire extinguishers inspections conducted monthly:

- A. Is it present and mounted in its proper location?
- B. Is it readily accessible?
- C. Initial and date attached tag.

If it appears to need servicing contact the Maintenance HELP line at 7-7463

Tell us how we are doing!

The newsletter has a new home. Every individual article is now hosted online at blogs.emory.edu/labratnews/

Got something to share? [Tell us!](#) Post comments, related articles/links, and safety concerns.

Feel free to also send your comments to biosafe@emory.edu.

We look forward to reading your ideas and comments!

Building Liaisons

[Click here](#) to find your building's Radiation and Research liaisons.