

Safety Meeting Topic

August, 2008

Hazard Communication, Medical Monitoring and Chemical Exposure Records

Many ASU employees participate in Hazard Communication (Right to Know), Laboratory Safety, Bloodborne Pathogen and Biosafety Training. The training is provided to employees to enable them to identify potential hazards to their health and safety.

To assist employees in mitigating these potential hazards, the ASU Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) has developed written programs including Hazard Communication available at http://www.asu.edu/uagc/EHS/documents/asu_hazard_communication_plan.pdf, Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control available at http://www.asu.edu/uagc/EHS/documents/bloodborne_pathogens_plan.pdf, and a Chemical Hygiene Plan available at http://www.asu.edu/uagc/EHS/documents/asu_chp.pdf and a Biosafety Manual available at <http://www.asu.edu/uagc/EHS/documents/biosafetymanual.pdf>. These programs require that a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is available for each hazardous material used. MSDS contains important safety information and assists employees in determining how to protect themselves from potential hazards. MSDSs are kept in binders or in electronic format in each department and are available for your use. If you cannot locate the MSDS binder or the MSDS for a product you are using, notify your supervisor. You may also search for MSDS on the internet using your web browser. Many manufacturers post their MSDS on their websites. If you have trouble locating an MSDS, please contact the product manufacturer to request a copy. If a manufacturer will not provide a copy or you cannot locate the information to contact the manufacturer please notify EH&S.

ASU's Hazard Communication Program also requires that chemical containers be labeled. Ensure that the manufacturer's original container label remains intact. If the label becomes illegible or the chemical is transferred to another container, follow the labeling instructions provided in your Hazard Communication Training and available in the Hazard Communication Program.

All chemical purchases must go through the Sunrise system. This is being done in order that Purchasing can provide EH&S with an accurate accounting of chemical purchases which assists with monitoring compliance with the recent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations that monitor chemicals of interest (COI). The Sunrise system will not manage the chemical inventories required for laboratory registration. All laboratories must submit a complete inventory of chemicals used as identified in the Chemical Hygiene Plan on an annual basis. This is not the same inventory submitted in March 2008 to identify any COI under DHS regulations. Labs that have registered with EH&S and have submitted an inventory need only to update what they have submitted on an annual basis. Reminders will be sent to labs that are registered to provide the update. If you are involved in a laboratory that is not registered or has not updated their registration in last year, please contact Terisa Baker at Terisa.Baker@asu.edu or (480) 965-1823.

Chemicals purchased by a contractor under a purchase order for use at ASU do not have to use the Sunrise system but EH&S does need to be aware of the chemical type and storage quantities. If you have contracts with vendors who purchase chemicals that are used and stored at ASU, please contact EH&S at EHS@asu.edu or (480) 965-1823.

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Access to Medical Records Chemical Exposure Records

Just as information is available to you related to potentially hazardous materials you may use, any medical or exposure monitoring that has been conducted on your behalf is available to you. This includes any medical examination you participated in related to your work and any Industrial Hygiene Monitoring Data. Industrial Hygiene Monitoring Data is information related to chemical or physical agents you may have been potentially exposed to during the course of your work such as formaldehyde or noise. Any analysis of this data is also available. This information may be requested through your Supervisor and EH&S.

These records are located at either the EH&S Department, Campus Health Service or your Human Resources Department. The individual responsible for ensuring access to these records is the EH&S Industrial Hygiene Manager. A copy of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.1020 standard "Access to employee exposure and medical records" describing your right to access these types of records is available on OSHA's website at http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10027 or by contacting the EH&S office at EHS@asu.edu.

Questions about these records should be forwarded to Michael Ochs at 5-1823 or at EHS@asu.edu.