



The OSHA Laboratory Standard

By Peter Nagle

Hazardous chemicals present physical and health hazards to employees in the workplace. For this reason, OSHA has developed standards for employers to deal with toxic and hazardous substances. However, OSHA recognizes that these standards were written for industrial settings and are not necessarily applicable to laboratories. Since chemicals are used in small amounts for short durations in laboratories, it would be impractical to follow the provisions in many of the standards. OSHA laboratory standard 29 CFR 1910.1450 specifically addresses chemicals in laboratories. The standard provides flexibility for organizations to assess chemical hazards in their laboratories and devise a plan to mitigate them, provided that their plans address the required criteria set by OSHA. To achieve this, each workplace that uses chemicals in a lab must develop a Chemical Hygiene Plan that addresses the following:

1. Chemical fume hood evaluations
2. Hazard Assessments and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
3. Employee exposure assessments and medical consultation provisions
4. Provisions for additional protection for work with high hazard chemicals
5. Employee training
6. Management of Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
7. Assignment of Chemical Hygiene Officers

The Chemical Hygiene Plan must be readily available to all lab workers. The UNE Chemical Hygiene Plan can be found in:

Good Housekeeping for Labs

By Jessica Tyre



Eyewashes and Safety Showers: What you should know

By Jessica Tyre

Proper use of flexible power cords

By Ronnie Souza

Improper use of easily overloaded, unapproved extension cords can present a serious fire safety hazard in the workplace.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical distribution equipment, such as extension cords, was the second leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S. between 2004 and 2008.

The most common cause of fires from extension cords is due to improper use and/or overloading, especially when cords have multiple outlets. Most extension cords are only rated for a maximum of ten amps or 1200 Watts. Overloading can occur when multiple devices are plugged into one cord or when cords are "daisy chained" (plugging multiple

Hazardous Waste Management

By Peter Nagle

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General Spill Clean Up Procedures

By Ronnie Souza

The UNE Chemical Sharing Program is a great way to reduce hazardous waste, reduce costs for your department, and have a positive environmental impact on campus.

If you have any commonly used lab chemicals you are thinking of disposing of, please contact EHS so they can be listed in the next issues of EHS Lab Chatter as available for the UNE Chemical Sharing Program.

Chemicals currently available: