

Muster Points: Where to go ... by Peter Nagle

Laboratory Safety Training for Student Employees

by Peter Nagle

As many of you know, all graduate or work study students are required to take the UNE Blackboard Training prior to working in a lab. The reason for this is that the OSHA Laboratory Standard requires any employee working in a laboratory where hazardous chemicals are present to be provided with training to ensure that they are apprised of the chemical hazards present in their work area. The OSHA Laboratory Standard defines employee as an individual employed in a laboratory workplace who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals in the course of his or her assignments. "Employed" is the key word here. Since many of our work study and graduate students are remunerated for their work in labs where hazardous chemicals are present, regulators would not differentiate between our definitions of work study student and employee in a laboratory setting. They would identify them both as employees. For this reason, UNE is required to train all paid personnel working in a laboratory setting and document that training. OSHA requires the following topics to be covered:

- Methods, observations and monitoring that may be used to detect the presence or release of hazardous chemicals

- The physical and health hazards of chemicals in the work area

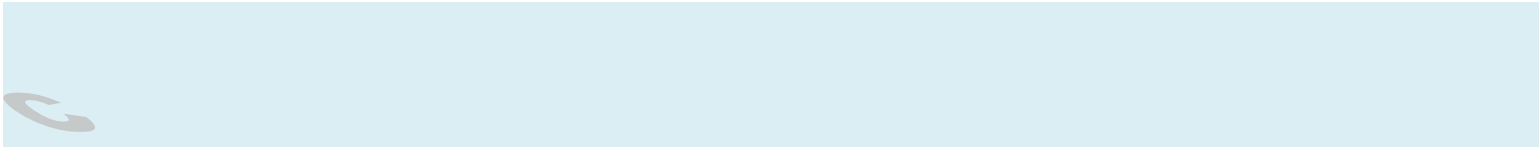
- The measures employees can take to protect themselves from these hazards which include:

- Engineering controls
- Administrative controls
- Housekeeping practices
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

UNE accomplishes this by requiring anyone who will be working in a laboratory to complete the Blackboard Laboratory Core training which includes:

- Hazard Communication (HAZCOM)
- Lab Safety
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Hazardous Waste
- Radiation (if Applicable)
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Fire Safety

Additionally all employees shall be trained on the applicable details of the Chemical Hygiene Plan. This is achieved by the Principle Investigators (PIs) as they perform on-the-job training for their personnel. The training, for example, could be working with cryogenics, which is covered in the UNE Chemical Hygiene Plan or a procedure that is specific to and written for a specific lab. Between the Blackboard Training and on-the-job training UNE complies with the OSHA requirement to train its laboratory employees.



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Hazard Communication Standard Final Rule

by Ronnie Souza

New changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard are bringing the United States into alignment with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), further improving safety and health protections for America's workers. The Hazard Communication Standard in 1983 gave workers the 'right to know,' but the new Globally Harmonized System gives workers the 'right to understand.'

The new hazard communication standard still requires chemical manufacturers and importers to evaluate the chemicals they produce or import and provide hazard information to employers and workers by putting labels on containers and preparing safety data sheets. However, the old standard allowed chemical manufacturers and importers to convey hazard information on labels and material safety data sheets in whatever format they chose. The modified standard provides a single set of harmonized criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health and physical hazards and specifies hazard communication elements for labeling and Safety Data Sheets.