



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISORY

Educational Services Center
Business Services Division – Risk Management

August 16, 2002

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN COLLEGE LABORATORIES

Regulatory Commitments

The California Environmental Protection Agency - Department of Toxic Substances Control and Department of Industrial Relations – Division of Occupational Safety and Health specify certain storage and handling rules for all hazardous substances utilized in college laboratories and other areas on campus. These regulations are primarily intended to minimize the risk of adverse occupational and public exposure to hazardous substances. Complying with the rules reduces the threat of fire and protects the environment from hazardous contaminants. In general terms, all hazardous substances shall be:

- Properly labeled with the substance name, chemical expiration date or initial accumulation date, if a waste;
- Stored in suitable primary containers in cabinets, shelves, pallets or other approved storage areas that are equipped with secondary containment to preclude inadvertent mixing of chemicals;
- Stored with other compatible substances or stored separately to prevent an inadvertent chemical reaction that may produce heat, release toxic vapors, or alter the chemical composition of a substance;
- Utilized as intended and in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions or product labels;
- Positively controlled against unauthorized use;
- Stored, handled, and used in accordance with the manufacturer’s Material Safety Data Sheet;
- Inspected weekly for compliance with the rules and to ensure container integrity; and
- All hazardous wastes shall be properly disposed in a timely manner and in accordance with all federal and state laws.

Recent Events

The District has recently been notified of three instances in which Facilities personnel have discovered improper storage of hazardous substances in three Chemistry Laboratories. In each case, Facilities Management acted promptly and in accordance with District and College procedures to avert injury and illness and damage to the environment and facilities.

District Response

This year the District has provided each location with hazardous material (waste) containers, supporting equipment, spill control and prevention supplies, labels, signs, and other accident prevention materials that will assist college departments that utilize hazardous substances or generate hazardous wastes to be in compliance with Cal/EPA and Cal/OSHA regulations. The District’s Hazardous Material Control Plan details proper storage, handling, use, and disposal of hazardous substances on campus. The District’s Chemical Hygiene Plan addresses occupational exposure in campus laboratories. Presently, the District is working with Facilities Management to establish a comprehensive contract for professional services to effectively collect, package, and dispose of hazardous wastes generated at all District locations.

Administration Assistance Requested

The District requests assistance to ensure that all areas on campus are inspected within the next 90-days for hazardous substance (waste) compliance. If an unknown substance is found, notify Facilities to ensure that the substance is properly identified and controlled. The District’s hazardous waste contract should be ready for use within the next three months in order to dispose of all waste materials identified and collected during your campus inspections.

Submitted:

David C. Martin, Occupational Safety & Health Specialist

Approved:

Kemba S. Olabisi, Risk Manager

NOTE: This Safety Advisory is provided as a local operating instruction to supplement the Los Angeles Community College District Chemical Hygiene Plan, Hazardous Material Control Plan, and Emergency Action Plan as applicable to College Laboratories and other areas in which hazardous substances may be stored, handled, or utilized. Employee training is available upon request by contacting the District’s Safety Office at (213) 891-2422. Each campus may prescribe additional instructions or controls approved by the Vice President – Administration, or President.

REFERENCES: 8 CCR §5191
8 CCR §3220
22 CCR DIV 4.5