CWRU DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

NE SLETTER

May/June 2004

"Safety Comes First"
SPECIAL ISSUE: SIGNAGE

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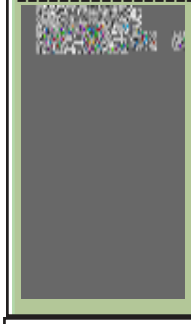
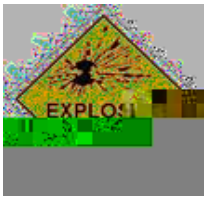


DR.GOGGLES SAYS, "MAKE SURE YOUR LAB IS SAFE AND SECURE BY DISPLAYING THE RIGHT CAUTION SIGNS!



Has Your Lab Posted the Appropriate Caution Signs?

According to university policy all laboratories are responsible for posting signs and labels in appropriate places including the entrance to labs, doors to refrigerators and freezers, samples containers, transporting devices, and waste containers. Posting the correct caution signs in your work area is absolutely critical to our university environment and to the health and safety of our staff, students, and faculty. Furthermore, following these guidelines helps the university comply with radiation safety, chemical OSHA Laboratory Standards, Bloodborne Pathogens Standards, and Right-to-Know requirements. In this article you will find some detailed guidelines for posting the appropriate labels and signs in laboratories using biohazardous materials, chemical materials, and radioactive materials. Signage is provided to each working laboratory by Safety Services and the signs provide a university-wide format to standardize warning information.

(Con in ed on age 5)

Labeling Regulated Chemicals

All chemical containers must be labeled with the chemical identity and hazard warnings. For example, a formaldehyde label must be placed on anything containing formaldehyde, the bottle and the storage cabinet itself. You may even place such a label on the door if not in a regulated area. The label should read: "Danger--Contains Formaldehyde Irritant and Potential Can-

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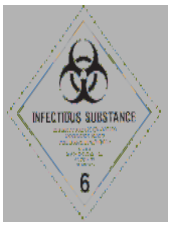
Guidelines for Packaging and Labeling Infectious Substances and Clinical Specimens



The transport of clinical specimens and etiological agents (infectious substances) should be done with care in order to minimize any hazard to humans or to the environment and also to protect the viability of suspected pathogens. The transport of infectious items by public or commerical delivery systems may be subject to local, national and international regulations.

Guidelines for Infectious Substances

Definitions:

Infectious substances are defined as substances known to contain, or reasonably expected to contain, pathogens, which are expected to cause infectious disease in humans or animals. Specimens (human, animal, food, environmental, etc.) that are known to or could contain pathogens are now to be classified as infectious substances and should be packaged and shipped accordingly.

Personal Responsibility:

Persons who ship infectious agents or diagnostic specimens must comply with all local and international regulations pertaining to the packaging and handling of these items. They must ensure that specimens arrive at their destination in good condition and that they present no hazard to persons or animals during shipment.

Packaging:

The inner packaging must include the following:

• An inner water tight primary container that is glass, metal, or plastic and has a leak proof seal.

• A watertight, impact-resistant secondary container.

• Absorbent material between the primary container and the secondary container. If multiple primary containers are placed in a single secondary packaging, they must be wrapped individually to ensure that contact betweeen them is prevented.

• An itemized list of contents between the secondary packaging and the outer packaging.

Multiple primary receptacles placed in a single secondary packaging must be wrapped individually (or for infectious substances transported in liquid nitrogen), separated and supported to ensure that contact between them is prevented. The absorbing material must be sufficient to absorb the entire contents of all primary receptacles.

The outer packaging must meet the following requirements:

• Be of sufficient strength to adequately protect and contain the contents.

• Be at least 100 mm (4 inches) in its smallest overall external dimension.

• Be durably and legibly marked on the outside with the address and telephone number of the consignee. A biohazard warning label must be affixed to the outside of the outer container, and must bear the inscription, “Infectious substance. In case of damage or leak

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Labeling Regulated Chemicals

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Radiation (x2906)

- New Training: (check website)
- X-ray Training: (call for times)

Chemical and Biological Safety (x2907)

- OSHA Lab Standard and Regulated Chemicals: Mondays 1-3:00
- Bloodborne Pathogens: Mondays 3-5:00

Please Note: Seats are limited in new training sessions, so be sure to call ahead of time to check on the availability of a training session.

- All online training is available at *h ://doe .c .ed* and **ALL** training (except X-ray) is **REQUIRED ANNUALLY**. All re-training (except regulated chemicals) is available online. Check our website for updates.

Guidelines for Packaging and Labeling *(Continued from page 4)*

age immediately notify public health authority." Packaging for infectious substances must be marked with United Nations specification markings denoting that the packaging has been tested and certified for shipping infectious substances. (See the figure below for illustrations of these packaging recommendations.)

Guidelines for Clinical Specimens:

Specimens that are not known to or reasonably expected to contain pathogens and are therefore not classified as infectious diseases should be packaged and shipped as clinical specimens. Specimens that have a relatively low probability of containing pathogens are also to be classified as clinical/diagnostic specimens. These include specimens that are transported or shipped for the purpose of routine screening testsor initial diagnosis. Unless a specimen has been tested to determine that it does not contain a pathogen, it should be packaged

Posting Caution Signs

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Guidelines for Biosafety:

Post red/orange biohazard signs and the name and telephone number of the PI as well as an alternate contact at the entrance to all laboratories that use biohazardous materials, or infectious materials or infected animals in the laboratory or animal rooms. Make certain that the warning label indicates any special requirements for entering the area (for example, the need for immunizations or respirators).

Special Guidelines for HIV and HBV:

Laboratories using HIV or HBV must display:

- The indentity of the infectious agent used in the lab

- Any special requirements needed for entering the area

In laboratories using HIV and/or HBV all waste materials must be placed in either red or orange containers or in containers marked

D.O.E.S. STAFF

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