

Winter Term 2015 Safety Memorandum

Reminder: Standard Wording for Chemistry Teaching Laboratories

In the fall of 2014 the *Departmental Safety Advisory Group* (DSAG) adopted the following wording for all wet chemistry laboratory courses:

“All students must wear closed shoes and be dressed such that there is absolutely no exposed skin below the waist. Students should consult the instructor of record if they have any questions about meeting the standards for attire.”

Note that clothing above the waist is not mentioned since it is assumed all students in teaching laboratories will wear laboratory coats (and, of course, goggles and any other necessary PPE). If instructors wish to impose additional attire requirements (such as the wearing of gloves) these should also be made clear in the syllabus. Feedback provided to the DSAG has thus far been positive inasmuch as this new wording seems to have eliminated many of the vagaries inherent to the previously-used wording. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a DSAG member.

Reminder: Approval of Outreach Events

Please note that a formal approval is required for all outreach activities involving any kind of chemical experiment/demonstration. The form may be found on the Department of Chemistry website via *Research > Safety Web > Outreach* and must be submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the event.

Update: Barcoding and Chemical Inventory

The *Fall Term 2015 Safety Memorandum* contained information pertaining to the requirement that all laboratories maintain an accurate online chemical inventory and to ensure that chemicals are properly labeled and stored.

The Department of Chemistry is working to implement a barcoding system to streamline the process so that all containers will have a barcode to allow quick integration into the online chemical inventory system (as opposed to the current input method, which requires manual entry of chemical data). ChemStores is hoping to have a system in place soon so that all incoming materials will be given a barcode. A later step in the process would involve providing a route to barcode pre-existing containers in laboratories. Updates will be provided as they become available.

SDS/MSDS Information Online

Access to SDS/MSDS information is critical to proper laboratory safety. Although there are many sources available, please note that OSU personnel have access to MSDSOnline. Go to <http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/sds> for access.