



# Lab Safety Inspection Standards

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1. Chemical Storage Method: Chemicals should be segregated according to hazard classes and appropriately labeled. Liquid chemicals should **not** be stored above eye level. Flammables should be in approved cabinets. Chemical waste should be stored in appropriate containers and labeled.
2. Chemical Storage Location: Chemicals should not be stored on the floor, in fume hoods, or on bench tops. Exceptions are while in use on bench tops or in hoods and active experiments. Chemicals should be properly stored at the end of the class/day.
3. Chemical Labels:
  - a. Dated: New chemicals should be dated on the day they are received, and any expiration dates. Old chemicals will not be expected to have dates on them.
  - b. Good Condition: Labels should be readable and not falling off. If the label has disintegrated a new label needs to be created to indicate clearly what is in the bottle and what potential hazard exists with that chemical. Do not use abbreviations or “nicknames” when labeling a chemical.
  - c. Secondary Containment Label: Beakers, squirt bottles, flasks, base/acid bathes etc. that contain chemicals, reagents, solutions, or samples should be clearly labeled with content information. This can be done with a sharpie or an adhesive label.
4. Warning Signs:
  - a. No Food: “No Food” signs should be posted on the outside of each lab door.
  - b. Refrigerator: “No Food” or “Samples Only” signs will be posted on all refrigerators inside labs. Only food items used in experiments may be stored and must be labeled.
  - c. Hazards: Associated with equipment, lasers, etc.
  - d. PPE: Requirements for working in the lab should be posted.
  - e. Hygiene: “Wash Hands” signs should be posted in close proximity to sinks.
5. PPE: In accordance with OSHA 29CFR1910.132, a workplace hazard analysis will be conducted and appropriate PPE will be provided to protect eyes, hearing, breathing, and/or skin from chemical, biological, radiological, or other environmental hazards.
6. Compressed Gas Cylinders: Should be secured by chain or strap in upright position and capped when not in use. Identify status “full, in use, or empty” by label. Room containing cylinders should be clearly identified with awareness signage.
7. Housekeeping: Clear egress routes, emergency eyewash stations/showers are accessible, cleared floors, adequate workspace, sharps and broken glassware properly stored, and overall safe/clean environment.

***NOTE:** Departments are responsible for communicating safety standards to anyone working in laboratories and may contact Environmental Health & Safety at 942-2180 for guidance.*