

WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Safety Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

HI, DID YOU KNOW?

Policy Update – Minors in Labs

If you plan to sponsor minors to volunteer in your laboratory, you must first register this activity with the [Minors Program Office](#). Minors are individuals under 18 years old who are not enrolled or accepted for enrollment at USC. After you've completed this registration, please fill out the corresponding [Minors in Laboratories form](#) and send it to jlocke@mailbox.sc.edu for a pre-review. The completed form will be forwarded to your department Chair for their signature. After signing, the form will be sent back to EH&S for the necessary committee review and to obtain all required signatures. Please allow a minimum of seven business days for EH&S to process your application.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

New Regulation

MINIMIZE YOUR EXPOSURE!

The EPA Methylene Chloride Regulation of the Toxic Substances Control Act published in *40 CFR Part 751 Subpart B* went into effect on July 8, 2024. This regulation applies to the use of methylene chloride, also called dichloromethane (DCM) in research laboratories. Limit your workplace DCM vapor concentration below the action level (1 ppm average over an 8-hr workday) by using DCM inside a chemical fume hood and by proper storage and disposal of DCM waste. If you store and use DCM in your lab, you are required to have a written Standard Operating Procedure detailing its safe use. Any large volume storage or use of DCM outside of a fume hood must be reported to EH&S.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Are you prepared?

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN AT ANY TIME!



Coming Up

Our lab safety inspection for 2025 began in February. We will send you an email to schedule a time. Please set aside 40-60 minutes to respond to any questions from the inspectors.

[INSPECTION CHECKLIST](#)



Reminder

Prepare or update Lab-specific CHP and Safety Manual, written SOPs, chemical inventory, safety data sheets access; provide and document lab/hazard-specific training.

[SIGN UP FOR TRAINING](#)



RADIATION SAFETY CORNER

Did you know?

If you are issued radiation monitoring badges at USC, you can review your individual dose history at any time by visiting [our dosimeter provider website](#). Enter your USC email address and you will be sent a link to review your reported dose history. Rest assured that even if you do not review your dose history, the radiation safety team reviews every report to ensure all reported dose is within required regulatory limits and As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA).

If your email address isn't registered or you have a question about your dose history, please send a message to radsafe@mailbox.sc.edu.

SEE FULL CASE STUDY



BIOSAFETY CORNER

Shipping non-regulated bio materials on dry ice?

Shipping training is mandatory for all shipments of regulated dangerous goods, including dry ice. Certain biological material such as RNA from non-pathogenic microorganisms may be classified as non-regulated. However, any shipment involving dry ice requires prior completion of shipping training. Dry ice is categorized as a Class 9 Miscellaneous Dangerous Good and is regulated by both the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for air transport.

Questions? Contact Sherika Smith at smiths69@mailbox.sc.edu.

Shipping bio materials internationally?

Contact the [USC Office of Research Compliance](#) before shipping biological materials to outside the U.S. Non-compliance with export regulations may result in [serious consequences](#) including loss of research funding, fines, and potential imprisonment. Export control regulations also apply to genetic elements and genetically modified organisms that contain DNA associated with the pathogenicity of pathogens on the [Commerce Control List](#) (e.g., VSV-g packaging plasmids). Pathogen-related export controls apply:

- to more pathogens than what are on the HHS/USDA Select Agents & Toxins list
- to shipments to all countries, including "friendly" countries, and for all purposes, including purely academic collaborations
- in some cases, to materials that are attenuated or otherwise non-pathogenic
- even when the materials at issue are widely available and in use internationally.

News and Articles



1. A student burned his eye in a University of Utah lab. The University knew about dangers beforehand, an audit finds, but didn't take action.
2. Lab incident shows importance of safety protocols.
3. Murray State Chemistry lab explosion sends 3 to hospital.

Contact us today

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT LAB SAFETY?

Biosafety - Sherika Smith, smiths69@mailbox.sc.edu

Rad Safety - Caitlin Root, caitlinroot@sc.edu

Chemical Lab Safety - Jocelyn Locke, jlocke@mailbox.sc.edu

LET'S CHAT!