Work with Carcinogens

When carcinogens regulated by Cal/OSHA are handled in campus facilities, UC San Diego is required to report the chemical name, quantity, and other information to Cal/OSHA.

**Help keep UCSD in compliance.** If you work with any of the chemicals listed below, please notify EH&S so required information can be reported to Cal/OSHA:

- 2-Acetylamino fluorene
- 4-Aminodiphenyl
- Benzidine (and its salts)
- 3,3'-Dichlorobenzidine (and its salts)
- 4-Dimethy laminoazobenzene
- alpha-Naphthylamine
- beta-Naphthylamine
- 4-Nitro biphenyl
- N-Nitrosodimethylamine
- beta-Propiolactone
- bis-Chloromethyl ether
- Ethyleneimine
- Methyl chloromethyl ether

Contact the EH&S Chemical Safety division: (858) 822-1579 or (858) 246-0535. Or e-mail us at ehschem@ucsd.edu.

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**New Hazardous Waste Online Tag Program**

**Coming Soon to My Research Safety**

UC San Diego’s **new all-inclusive** electronic Online Tag Program (OTP) will soon be available on the My Research Safety web portal. What’s new and improved?

- No more username and password: all accounts are accessed with Single Sign-On
- Waste tracking and tag generation for almost every hazardous waste produced at UCSD, including chemical, radioactive, mixed radioactive-chemical, and universal wastes
- Self-populating hazard class: just add a chemical and the program does the rest
- View History of collected wastes

In the next few months every Waste Generator Number will have a new OTP account. Those with existing OTP accounts will need to prepare for the transition by creating all new waste tags in the new account. Waste containers in the old account either must be picked up from the lab or reopened in the new account. Take time to review your waste profiles before the new OTP arrives.

More information will be provided by your Department Safety Officer, the Research Assistance Program specialist assigned to your building, and in Lab Notes newsletter. Staff will assist you with the transition.

Thank you for being part of UC San Diego’s new electronic waste tracking system!

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**Risk Awareness for Immune Compromised Personnel**

Immune compromised individuals have a medical condition (called immunocompromised or immunosuppression) in which their immune system doesn’t work as well as it does in healthy individuals. They’re at higher risk of illness or more serious side effects of illness caused by an infectious disease.

If you have a medical condition that causes problems with your immune system, your primary physician probably will have informed you. Some examples include:

- Infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Prolonged use of corticosteroid (cortisone) medications by mouth or by injection (These drugs are given for a variety of diseases including asthma, allergies, and autoimmune disorders such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.)
- Monoclonal antibody therapy

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**Free Precision Vaporizer Verification and Calibration**

In response to the recent AAALAC site visit recommendations, the IACUC will require precision vaporizer verification or calibration every 3 years. EH&S will be sponsoring a one-time opportunity for labs to have vaporizer verification, servicing, and repairs with full calibration performed at **no cost** to the lab. PIs and lab contacts: watch for future e-mails announcing dates, times, and location. Contact George Araiza at garaiza@ucsd.edu for more information.

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- Infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Prolonged use of corticosteroid (cortisone) medications by mouth or by injection (These drugs are given for a variety of diseases including asthma, allergies, and autoimmune disorders such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.)
- Monoclonal antibody therapy
Risk Awareness for Immune Compromised Personnel ... continued

- Medications used by people who have received organ transplants
- Blood diseases that affect the bone marrow or white blood cells (for example leukemia or lymphoma)
- Pregnancy will cause some degree of immuno-suppression (i.e., Listeria, LCMV)
- Long-term diabetes mellitus, kidney, or liver disease
- Certain forms of cancer, leukemia, and lymphoma
- Cancer chemotherapy and radiation therapy
- Chronic under nutrition (malnutrition)
- Spleen removal

Many infectious agents that do not normally cause serious health problems in healthy people can cause problems in immune compromised individuals. In labs where infectious disease agents may be present, it’s important for immune compromised workers to be aware that these agents may pose a higher risk of infection for them.

It’s important for immune compromised workers to be aware of the following and ask for help in evaluating risks, as needed:

- Know your workplace: In general, safety practices in the research setting are designed to minimize all personnel’s exposure to hazards. EH&S Research Safety can help evaluate engineering controls and safety practices which minimize your risk of exposure.

- Talk to your medical provider: Discuss your work activity, frequency and duration of contact with infectious agents, and the normal safety practices and equipment present in your workplace. A primary care physician who is aware of your medical condition and has a list of infectious agents present in your workplace can help you decide if you should ask for workplace accommodation.

- Reduce your risk with strict adherence to safety work practices:
  - Use the recommended engineering controls (such as biosafety cabinets).
  - Wear the recommended personal protective equipment.
  - Wash your hands after contact with animals, potential hazards, and after taking off gloves.
  - Ask for help in requesting accommodations in the workplace to avoid possible exposures.

- Report symptoms that suggest a work-related infection or illness: If you have any symptoms suggestive of infection from your workplace, seek medical evaluation immediately. Notify your supervisor and follow the UCSD incident reporting process on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/occupational/reporting.html.

- See UCSD resources for assistance: Refer to the EH&S Policy for Immune Compromised Personnel Working in Research Settings for additional information and resources available to assist you with working safely in the research setting and/or implementing medical recommendations: http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/bio/pdf/Immunocompromised_Status_Policy.pdf.

Questions? Contact the EH&S Occupational Health nurse, Bobbi Sawtelle, at rsawtelle@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-8225.

Safe Use of Environmental Rooms

Environmental rooms, generally built for the growth of cells or organisms, are engineered to control temperature and humidity levels. Typical environmental room temperatures at UCSD are 37°C for warm rooms and 4°C for cold rooms.

Designed with limited or no mechanical ventilation, environmental rooms typically have closed air circulation systems that rely on the opening and closing of the room’s door to bring in fresh air, as compared to laboratories, which receive 10 air exchanges per hour through the building ventilation system.

Because ventilation is limited, good housekeeping practices are essential for maintaining a safe and functional environmental room.

Follow these guidelines for safe use of environmental rooms:

- Prevent release of gases or aerosols at all times.
- Prevent mold:
  - Remove old culture plates and tubes. These are a food source for mold and mildew.
  - Remove all cardboard and wet or damp organic materials that mold and mildew can easily grow on. Use plastic containers or foil to store light sensitive items.
  - Keep the door shut. If left open, water condensation on surfaces increased due to high relative humidity, promoting mold growth.
- Never store these materials in an environmental room:
  - Flammables
  - Corrosive materials
  - Compressed gas cylinders
  - Dry ice
  - Food and drink
  - Dispose of unused or old chemicals.

For more information see “Safe Use of Environmental Rooms” on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/envirorooms.

When an Injury or Exposure Happens

Go to the UC San Diego website at ucsd.edu and type injury in the Search box. Click on “What to Do if a Work-Related Injury, Illness, or Exposure Occurs” and follow the instructions.