

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, April 23, 2008 (2101-G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone (for Carolyn Bishop), Bruna Brylawski, James Gilbert, Katherine Hamil, Jeff Johnson, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Bonnie Taylor-Blake

**Members Absent:** Kimberlie Burns, Susan Cheek, Howard Fried, Ray Hackney, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman, Liska Lackey

**Others Present:** Mary Crabtree (EHS), Gary Shaver (EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:00pm. Minutes from the meeting of January 23, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

### **Online Chemical Inventory**

James Gilbert led a discussion seeking comments from the committee members on online chemical inventory systems. Reasons for a chemical inventory system include: new NC Department of Insurance regulations require inventories for renovated or newly constructed labs that limit the volume of certain types of chemicals in some areas of buildings; and new Department of Homeland Security regulations require reporting of "Chemicals of Interest". The committee discussed features of a chemical inventory system that make it more useful for labs:

- The database needs to be searchable by at least name or CAS#.
- It needs to be menu driven.
- There should be integration (or the ability to merge data) with software used for inventories on campus.
- Users should be able to run reports by room or chemical name.
- The system should indicate special handling/storage procedures or paperwork associated with the chemicals selected.
- Have a system where groups can share chemicals they no longer need with groups that do.
- After you order from Fisher it will update your inventory automatically.

### **Policy Change: Containers for the Collection of Biohazard Waste in Laboratories**

The Committee approved the proposal to add the requirements that biohazardous waste containers must be red in color and less than or equal to 15-gal. James Gilbert presented several types of red containers for the collection of biohazardous waste in laboratories. These included buckets, a step-on container, a barrel, and a shipping container for the collection of serological pipettes. These containers meet the new requirements for biohazardous waste containers and the previous requirements (i.e. durable, leak-proof, clearly labeled, closable with a lid, and can not be mistaken for a trash container). EHS believes that taking these steps will help provide visual information (red containers) as another means of communicating the hazard to housekeeping staff, reduce the number of unautoclaved biohazardous waste bags that reach the landfill, and make handling bags of biohazardous waste easier.

- EHS has compiled a list of acceptable containers that range in price and volume and will post it to the web.
- EHS is researching price breaks that may be available from vendors for large orders.
- Laboratories and other facilities will be expected to satisfy the requirement within one-year after it has been approved.
- The policy is effective June 1, 2008.
- NO citations will be given for non-compliance with the new requirements until June 1, 2009.
- The policy change will be announced by these LCSC minutes and an email will be sent to the Principal Investigator/Safety Supervisor listserv before the beginning of the fall semester.

## Injuries and Incidents, January-March 2007

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008.

| INJURY TYPE           | DESCRIPTION  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Burn (Chemicals)      | Lab worker burned by liquid nitrogen in bottom of shipping container.  |
| Burn (Chemicals)      | Employee knelt on lab floor in morning and in afternoon noticed white spot on leg. No source of injury determined.                             |
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| Burn (steam)          | Employee assumed all steam was released from autoclave but received second-degree burns to right wrist when door was fully opened.             |
| Burn                  | Employee noticed rash after demonstrating toning process with sepia, blue, and selenium toners.  |
| Cut (Handling object) | Cryostat knife holder fell on employee's arm when she removed it to clean out instrument. Employee received 5 stitches.                        |
| Animal bite           | Employee bitten by mouse while attempting to give IP injection.  |
| Animal bite           | Employee bitten by mouse while attempting to euthanize it.   |
| Miscellaneous         | Employee had reaction to TDAP booster that included fever, swelling, redness, fatigue, and red eyes.   |
| Miscellaneous         | Research Specialist complained of animal allergies after performing rat surgeries. Employee has multiple allergies including rabbits and cats. |
| Needlestick           | Employee punctured finger with needle containing sample of unfixed, adipose tissue from prostate cancer patient.                               |
| Strain (lifting)      | Research scientist complaining of shoulder pain from technical work in mouse facility.   |

For incidents, there was one possible biohazard (BSL-3) release (later determined not to be a release), one explosion, one fire, 2 gas leaks, 11 miscellaneous, 16 odors, one chemical spill (non-mercury), 6 mercury spills, and one radiation spill.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm.