

## Laboratory Safety

### 1. Overview

- 1.1 Safety in laboratories is primarily governed by the laboratory type, Acts, Regulations, Standards and Codes of Practice.

In NSW, a laboratory by definition is deemed to be a workplace and as such is subject to the provisions of the NSW OH&S Regulation 2001. Chapters of the regulation of particular significance include:

- Chapter 2: Places of work – risk management and other matters
- Chapter 4: Work premises and Working Environment
- Chapter 5: Plant
- Chapter 6: Hazardous Substances
- Chapter 6A: Dangerous Goods
- Chapter 7: Hazardous Processes

- 1.2 The [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#) have been developed to provide general guidance material for all laboratories and associated facilities within UWS. These laboratories, however, may also be subject to specific safety requirements and safety rules depending upon its use at the time.

- 1.3 The [UWS Radiation Safety Guidelines](#) have been developed as a guide for UWS staff and students involved, either directly or indirectly, with the use of ionising radiation or radioactive material in teaching and/or research.

### 2. Critical Point Summary

- 2.1 The points below provide key information only and should be read in conjunction with Australian Standards, Codes of Practice and relevant guidelines.

- 2.2 Responsibilities for laboratory safety and implementation of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#) can be found in section 3 Responsibilities of the Guidelines.

- 2.3 High security within UWS laboratories must be maintained at all times to ensure that the hazardous substances, equipment and materials contained within do not expose individuals and the community to unreasonable levels of risk. Refer to section 4 Security Management of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#).

- 2.4 Appropriate laboratory emergency management plans must be developed and implemented. Refer to section 5 Emergency Management of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#).

- 2.5 A Laboratory Risk Assessment must be completed before undertaking work in laboratories and associated facilities. Refer to section 8 Risk Management of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#).

- 2.6 All personnel working in laboratories (staff and students) must undergo appropriate laboratory safety induction training before commencing laboratory work. Refer to section 9 Laboratory Safety Inductions of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#).

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- 2.7 Be aware of the local arrangements for conducting 'After Hours' work and working alone or in isolation. Refer to section 10 General Laboratory Safety of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#).
- 2.8 When working with chemicals, ensure that:
- the local area has a register of hazardous substances and dangerous goods
  - you are familiar with the information in the material safety data sheet (MSDS)
  - minimum quantities of chemicals are kept in the work area
  - appropriate risk assessments are undertaken
  - containers are labelled appropriately
  - storage requirements and obligations are met
  - procedures are in place for speciality chemicals (e.g. carcinogens, peroxide-forming chemicals, security-sensitive chemicals)
  - appropriate spill containment measures are implemented
  - waste management procedures are developed and followed
  - appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and used
  - appropriate safety equipment is available

For further information refer to section 13 Chemical Safety of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#) and the [Chemical Safety Checklist](#).

- 2.9 When working with biologicals, ensure that:
- approval is obtained from the UWS Biosafety and Radiation Safety (BRSC) for all research and teaching work where required. Refer to the [Ethics](#) page for further information
  - [Standard Operating Procedures](#) are used when handling biologicals
  - safe work practices for biologicals are implemented
  - appropriate physical containment levels are used for the biologicals handled
  - appropriate risk assessments are undertaken
  - appropriate spill containment measures are implemented
  - waste management procedures are developed and followed
  - appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and used
  - appropriate safety equipment is available
  - procedures are in place for handling security sensitive biological agents (SSBA)

Refer to section 14 Biological Safety of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#), the [Biological Safety Checklist](#) and the [Microbiology PC2 Safety Checklist](#) for further information.

- 2.10 Waste management procedures must be developed and implemented by all generators of laboratory waste. Refer to section 16 Disposal of Laboratory Wastes of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#).
- 2.11 Work with laboratory animals is subject to approval from the UWS Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC). Refer to the [Ethics](#) page for further information.
- 2.12 The proper termination of laboratory work procedure must be carried out when staff and/or students leave the laboratory or project work ceases. Refer to section 20 Termination of Laboratory Work in the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#) and the [Termination of Laboratory Work Checklist](#) for further information.

## 4. Further Information

- 4.1 Please contact the [OHS&IS](#) unit if you require further information.