FALL LABORATORY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Chemical Labeling.

All containers of hazardous chemicals that could pose a physical or health hazard to an exposed employee must have a label attached. Labels on purchased hazardous chemicals must include the following:

1. the common name of the chemical;
2. the name, address and emergency phone number of the company responsible for the product; and
3. an appropriate hazard warning.

The name of hazardous chemicals on any label must never be abbreviated. This is particularly important for emergency responders, as they may not be familiar with the abbreviation or could confuse the material with something else. The use of chemical formulas in place of proper labels is also prohibited. If containers are too small to include a complete label, then you may as an alternative, label the shelf, box, rack or similar container that these hazardous chemicals are stored or located in.

Electrical Cords.

During laboratory inspections our office conducts throughout the year, we sometimes encounter cords on electrical equipment that are found to be in poor condition and not safe to use. This may be a result of the environments that they are exposed to in the laboratory, damage that occurs during use or just simply the age of the equipment. As part of your laboratory self-audits, we recommend that you keep an eye out for frayed cords and damaged electrical equipment. Variac voltage regulators, hot plates and old vacuum pumps, are good examples of items that you should routinely inspect. If you do find frayed or damaged cords, it is recommended that you return these items to the manufacturer for repair or replace the equipment. The use of electrical tape is not considered a permanent repair and should not be used to prolong the life of damaged equipment.
FALL LABORATORY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Whistleblower Policy

Northeastern University strives to operate in an ethical, honest, and lawful manner and expects its faculty, administrators, staff and students to conduct their activities in accordance with University policies and applicable law.

The University strongly encourages all faculty, administrators, staff and students to report suspected or actual wrongful conduct through channels that the University establishes for such reporting. No University faculty, administrator, staff or student may interfere with the good faith reporting of suspected or actual wrongful conduct; no individual who makes such a good faith report shall be subject to retaliation, including harassment or any adverse employment, academic or educational consequence, as a result of making a report. The University will take whatever action is necessary and appropriate to address a violation of this policy.

For questions about this policy or for information about established channels for reporting wrongful conduct and/or compliance concerns, including anonymous reporting, please contact the Internal Audit Department or the Office of the General Counsel.

Occupational Safety and Environmental Concerns

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the whistleblower provisions of twenty-one whistleblower statutes protecting employees who report violations of various workplace safety, airline, commercial motor carrier, consumer product, environmental, financial reform, food safety, health care reform, nuclear, pipeline, public transportation agency, railroad, maritime, and securities laws. Rights afforded by these whistleblower acts include, but are not limited to, worker participation in safety and health activities, reporting a work related injury, illness or fatality, or reporting a violation of the statutes. For additional information on the OSHA Whistleblower Program, please go to the EHS Whistleblower page.