

LABORATORY & RADIATION SAFETY

Cornell University Department of Environmental Health & Safety

125 Humphreys Service Building, Ithaca, NY (Phone: 255-8200)

201 Palm Road, Ithaca, NY (Phone: 255-8200)

Web site <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>

NEWS

Spring 2004



Clean-Out of Stock Radioactive Materials

EH&S is in the process of testing and evaluating a new system for the inventory of stock radioactive materials. This new system will still require the use of inventory sheets to track disposition and waste removals, but there will no longer be the need for monthly decay and monthly reports. The current activity in the lab will be tracked by EH&S, and inventory verification will be done quarterly.

To help make the conversion to this new system easier for both the lab and EH&S, we recommend that all labs evaluate their current inventory of stock vials on hand. There are many old stock vials still being stored and tracked by labs. Many of these stock vials may no longer be useful. The radioactive isotope may have decayed past the point of being useful for experiments, the compound may also have degraded past the point of its proper function, or the isotope and compound may no longer be useful for any experiments being conducted in the lab.

Disposal of these unwanted stocks is very simple. Stock vials can be disposed of individually in their original container, or grouped by isotope in a plastic or zip-lock bag. Stock vials containing less than 1 milli-Curie can be placed into the appropriate dry waste container. Stock vials containing isotopes with a half-life less than 90 days must have all radioactive labels and markings removed or taped over.

The cost for disposal of stock vials depends on the half-life of the isotope. Disposal of stock vials containing isotopes with a half-life of less than 90 days are free. This is due to the storage and decay of stock vials on site. The cost for disposal of stock vials containing isotopes with a half-life greater than 90 days is \$20.82 per pound, with a minimum charge of one pound. If these stock vials are part of dry waste then they are part of the total weight of the bag. This is to recover costs charged to EH&S for disposal by our broker.

The new tracking system for the inventory of stock vials, although currently in the testing stage, will make tracking of stock vials easier for the lab. The clean-out of all expired and unwanted stocks will help EH&S and the lab with this conversion. Information on this new system will be made available after the results of the test are

evaluated. This new system will make tracking of current lab inventories easier and less painful for the labs.



New Radioactive Materials Inventory System

Starting July 1, 2004, a new inventory record system will be instituted for radioactive materials at Cornell University. The new system will save a lot of time for the majority of inventory record keepers, by eliminating the necessity for monthly decay and submission of "Monthly Radioisotope Reports" to EH&S. In addition, EH&S has developed an Excel spreadsheet that can be used to calculate the waste activity and decay quickly and easily. More detailed information regarding the new inventory system will be emailed to all permit holders and the CUI-RADSAFETY-L email list soon.

The new inventory system and the Excel sheet will be fully described during ten informational sessions offered during the month of June. Attendance at one of these sessions is highly recommended for permit holders and inventory record keepers. Please consider the benefits of sending other users for better group understanding. To encourage attendance, if an individual from a permit attends, the permit holder's name will be entered into a drawing for a **FREE PIZZA PARTY PACK** from Pizza Hut, which will be held at the beginning of July. The sessions are scheduled for:

Wednesday, June 2	2:30-3:30	135	Emerson Hall
Friday, June 4	1:30-2:30	118	Humphreys Service Building
Monday, June 7	10:30-11:30	200	Savage Hall
Thursday, June 10	3:30-4:30		G-01 Biotech
Tuesday, June 15	12:00-1:00		BTI Auditorium
Thursday, June 17	9:00-10:00	118	Humphreys Service Building
Monday, June 21	12:00-1:00		G-01 Biotech
Wednesday, June 23	10:30-11:30		BTI Auditorium
Tuesday, June 29	3:30-4:30	118	Humphreys Service Building
Wednesday, June 30	10:30-11:30		BTI Auditorium

*** Please share with your graduate students ***

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RADIATION SAFETY TRAINING

Individuals must receive radiation safety training **prior** to starting work with radioactive materials. This training is required by law. The course is given in two separate presentations; both sessions must be attended. There is a short exam, which can be taken either at the end of the second day, or later at our office during normal business hours. *Prior registration for this course is necessary, as seating is assigned on a first come first served basis.* The next Radiation Safety training programs are scheduled for:

May 18 & 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
June 14 & 16 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
July 20 & 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

To register please use the online form available on our EH&S Web site, or call the EH&S main desk, at 5-8200. For the online form go to <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>, select "Training", then select the course under "Class Times & Registration". Please fill in all fields before you submit your registration.

ADVANCED RECORD KEEPER TRAINING

This special radiation safety training is held monthly, on the last Friday of every month. It is geared just for those who perform and record the monthly lab meter/wipe test surveys and for those who do monthly reports to reconcile the individual stock vial inventory sheets. The survey class, taught by Chris Bell, is from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., and the inventory class, taught by Marlene Larson, is from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. The next classes are scheduled for Friday, May 30 (register by May 23). **Use our website to register or call Agnes Morris at 5-5600.**

CHEMICAL SAFETY TRAINING

The next ***new employee*** laboratory worker OSHA Laboratory Standard training program, "Chemical Safety for Laboratory Workers", will be held in 118 Humphreys Service Building on **Wednesday, June 2, 9 – 11 a.m., followed by the EPA-Chemical Waste Disposal Program from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

The next laboratory safety program for **undergraduate students** who are working in laboratories will be held in Room 118 Humphreys Service Building on **Friday, May 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Using your Cornell NetID, you can register on-line at <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/>. Select Training, then **Register Now in SafetyBase**. You may also register by going to the EH&S home page, select Forms & Documents; then click on On-Line Class Registration. For help please contact Czora Pagsolingan by e-mail at cpp5@cornell.edu or by phone at 254-4693.



Radiation Safety Eagle Awards



We are pleased to recognize the following laboratories for receiving radiation safety awards:

January

- B. Tye**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- G. Martin**, Boyce Thompson Institute
- D. Stern**, Boyce Thompson Institute
- R. Cerione**, Molecular Medicine, VMC
- * **M. Kotlikoff**, VM Administration, VRT

February

- D. Antczak**, VM Administration, Baker Institute
- R. Dieckmann**, Materials Science & Engr., Bard Hall
- J. Lis**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- D. Klessig**, Boyce Thompson Institute
- M. Wang**, Physics, Clark Hall
- E. Dubovi**, Pop. Med. & Diag. Sci., Vet. Diagnostic Lab
- M. Stipanuk**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- N. Noy**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- P. Davies**, Plant Biology, Plant Science Building
- * **S. Gan**, Plant Molecular Biology, Plant Science Building
- K. Schat**, Microbiology & Immunology, VMC
- S. Jones**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Wing Hall

March

- M. Sorrells**, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
- R. Spanswick**, Biol. & Environ. Engr., Bradfield Hall
- J. Scott**, Entomology, Comstock Hall
- G. Hrazdina**, Food Science & Technology, Geneva
- A. Bass**, Neurobiology & Behavior, Mudd Hall
- S. Lazarowitz**, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building
- T. Begley**, Chemistry & Chemical Biology, S.T. Olin
- J. Guan**, Molecular Medicine, VMC
- J. Jacob**, Vet. Clinical Sciences, VMC
- H. Marquis**, Vet. Microbiology & Immunology, VMC
- A. Nixon**, Vet. Clinical Sciences, VMC
- R. Oswald**, Molecular Medicine, VMC
- * **A. Nikitin**, Biomedical Sciences, VRT
- M. Shuler**, Chem. & Biomolecular Engineering, Olin Hall

April

- E. Alani**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
- R. Loria**, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
- T. Setter**, Crop & Soil Sciences, Bradfield Hall
- L. Lion**, Civil & Env. Engineering, Hollister Hall
- A. Bensadoun**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- D. Manor**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- * **F. Kallfelz**, Clinical Sciences, VMC
- G. Sharp**, Vet. Molecular Medicine, VMC
- A. Hay**, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Helmann**, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Peters**, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Shapleigh**, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- S. Winans**, Microbiology, Wing Hall

* Winner of Meal Deal from Pizza Hut

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