



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

POLICY: MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

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Related documents

UJ documents (e.g. Policies, Regulations, Guidelines, Contracts)	Other (e.g. Legislation, DoE and HEQC directives and guidelines)
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Stakeholders affected by this document (units and divisions who should be familiar with it):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
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1. PREAMBLE

The UJ recognizes the right of persons on its premises to an environment that is not harmful to their health. The amended occupational health and safety act (Act No 85 of 1993) (OHSA) requires that UJ as employer, should bring about and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a work environment that is safe and without risk to the health and safety of employees and other persons.

This holds true for work with Hazardous Chemical Substances (HCS). HCS is defined in the HCS regulations under the OHSA as 'any toxic, harmful, corrosive, irritant or asphyxiant substance, or a mixture of such substances for which an occupational exposure limit is prescribed, or an occupational exposure limit is not prescribed; but which creates a hazard to their health'. The HCS regulations apply to 'an employer... who carries out work at a workplace which may expose any person to the intake of a HCS at the workplace'.

Every division/unit in the Faculty of Science which may expose a person to a HCS is herewith included under the scope of this policy.

2. PURPOSE

To eliminate and mitigate the risks to health for employees and persons potentially exposed to hazardous chemical substances as set out in the PROCEDURES document.

3. OBJECTIVES

This policy is aimed at ensuring legal compliance with the OSH-Act, addressing the handling, use, storage and disposal of hazardous substances.

4. SCOPE

This Policy will apply to ALL Departments; Centres; Units as well as to ALL members of the Faculty of Science at the University of Johannesburg.

5. KEY WORDS

Hazardous Chemical Substance
Chemical risk management
Exposure risk
Air monitoring
Assessment of potential exposure
Medical Surveillance
Chemical Hygiene Plan

6. DEFINITIONS

'Assessment of potential exposure' means a programme to determine any risk from exposure by any route of intake to a HCS associated with any hazard thereof at

the research laboratory in order to identify the steps needed to be taken to remove, reduce or control such hazard;

'Air monitoring' means the monitoring of the concentrations of airborne HCS

'Monitoring' means the planning, carrying out and recording of the results of a measurement programme

'Hazardous Chemical Substances' means 'any toxic, harmful, corrosive, irritant or asphyxiant substance, or a mixture of such substances for which an occupational exposure limit is prescribed, or an occupational exposure limit is not prescribed; but which creates a hazard to their health';

'Hazard' means a source of or exposure to danger;

'Risk' means the probability that injury or damage will occur;

'Engineering control measures' means control measures that remove or reduce the exposure of persons in research laboratories by means of engineering control measures;

'Medical surveillance' means the measurement of potential health effects of an HCS on an employee, from absorption to clinical disease, and includes biological monitoring to measure the extent of absorption and medical screening to detect adverse effects of the HCS on the employee.

'Intake' includes inhalation, ingestion or absorption through the skin or mucous membranes

7. PRINCIPLES

The basic principles in terms of good hazardous chemical substance management include, but do not exclude, the following:

- Procurement
Procurement of hazardous chemicals may be implemented on condition that safe storage facilities are available
- User management
- Workplace air monitoring
- Storage and monitoring
Storage of hazardous chemicals is done in accordance with legislation and good practice, as set out in the accompanying PROCEDURE document
- Maintenance, inspection and testing of all control measures
- Correct and safe Disposal
Disposal of hazardous chemicals is done in accordance with legislation and good practice, as set out in the accompanying PROCEDURE document

8. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

As stipulated in the UJ Occupational Health Policy

9. MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

In accordance with the UJ Occupational Health Policy

10. TRAINING

Done in accordance with the OSH-Act

11. HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Done in accordance with the OSH-Act and as set out in the PROCEDURES document

12. HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SPILLS AND EMERGENCIES

Appropriate equipment and facilities according to the OSH-Act

13. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Appropriate equipment and facilities according to the OSH-Act

14. RECORDS AND DATA ANALYSIS

According to the OSH-Act

15. CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Appropriate according to the OSH-Act

16. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The employer

The role of the Vice-Chancellor, as 'employer' under the OHS-Act, is to make employees conversant with hazards to their health and safety attached to any work, substance or equipment, as well as precautionary measures which should be observed and taken with respect to those hazards.

The employee

A UJ employee shall take reasonable care for the health and safety of him/herself and other persons who might be affected by his/her acts or omissions. The employee shall carry out any lawful instruction, obey health and safety rules and report any unsafe or unhealthy situation. If the employee is involved in an incident affecting health or injury, such an incident shall be reported to the employer.

The person who will be deemed responsible for the implementation of this policy and procedure in each faculty or area where hazardous chemical substances are to be

used must be identified and appointed in writing. This person may delegate these functions to other persons but is never exempt from the responsibilities of their appointment

17. CHEMICAL HYGIENE PLAN

A plan will be developed and implemented to ensure compliance by all members of the Faculty of Science

18. HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES COMMITTEE

The Faculty of Science shall form a Hazardous Chemicals Committee. Such a committee shall be chaired by the Safety Manager or alternately by the Occupational Medicine Practitioner.

The committee is an advisory body and reports to the Executive Dean. The Committee has no executive powers.

The HCS Committee cannot be held legally responsible for non-compliance with the OHS-Act. This responsibility lies with line management.

19. REFERENCES

Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) (No 85 of 1993) as amended.

Hazardous Chemical Substances Regulations, 1995. Department of Labour [Government Notice. R: 1179].