

**WHS Inspection Checklist for Laboratories**

WHS Inspections of laboratories should be conducted, at least every three to six months, as a way of quickly identifying and resolving hazards in these working and learning areas. Whenever significant issues are identified during a WHS inspection which cannot be easily resolved, a formal WHS risk assessment should be conducted to support your work area to identify relevant hazards, risks and develop effective treatments (controls).

**Inspection details and checklist**

A minimum of two people should complete a WHS inspection by filling in the inspection details, below, and progressively working through the checklist and updating the Corrective Actions Plan, wthin Appendix A, whenever outstanding issues are resolved.

Campus:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Organsational Unit:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Location:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

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| **Inspection Team**  |  |
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

**✓ Tick the relevant Y or N Column.** If not applicable, enter N/A into comments field.

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| **Safe Operating Procedures**  | **Y** | **N** | **Comments** |
| Are Laboratory Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) accessible to staff?  |  |  |  |
| Have SOPs been implemented?  |  |  |  |
| Have all relevant staff, including academic staff, been trained in SOPs? |  |  |  |
| **Housekeeping**  |  |  |  |
| Are floors clean, dry, and free from slip/trip hazards?  |  |  |  |
| Is there any accumulation of equipment, redundant substances, contaminated waste or rubbish, within the working and learning area? |  |  |  |
| Is shelving stable, free of extraneous material and within easy reach?  |  |  |  |
| Are aisles and walkways obstruction free?  |  |  |  |
| Are chemical storage facilities in good condition? |  |  |  |
| **Fire Equipment**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are fire extinguishers/fire hose reels available in the work area, including a carbon dioxide extinguisher?  |  |  |  |
| Have the fire extinguishers been checked in the last 6 months? Guidance: Check silver inspection tag and confirm that the tag has been ole punched within the last six months.  |  |  |  |
| Are sprinkler heads (on ceiling) clear and unobstructed?  |  |  |  |
| Is emergency information, including the ‘In an Emergency’ posters and listings of evacuation wardens, displayed and accessible to staff members?  |  |  |  |
| **Emergency Exits**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are exits/walkways/corridors free of obstructions? |  |  |  |
| Is there exit signage available and visible?  |  |  |  |
| **Emergency Procedures**  | **Y** | **N** | **Comments**  |
| Are fire exits accessible?  |  |  |  |
| Are all exit doors unlocked? |  |  |  |

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| **Emergency Procedures**  | **Y** | **N** | **Comments**  |
| Are written procedures available for disposal of chemicals and regular collection of chemical wastes? |  |  |  |
| Are staff and students trained in correct waste disposable processes?  |  |  |  |
| Are all waste containers appropriately labelled with Class Diamonds? |  |  |  |
| **Environmental Continued…** | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Is waste segregated and stored correctly bundled away from drains?  |  |  |  |
| Are records of waste disposable available and in line with procedures?  |  |  |  |
| Is there evidence of tipping of waste down sink? |  |  |  |
| Are all lights working and are lighting levels appropriate for the tasks which are being performed? |  |  |  |
| Are emergency spill kits and bins readily available in the work area? |  |  |  |
| **Chemical Management**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Is a chemical register accessible to the areas where chemicals are used and stored?  |  |  |  |
| Are the relevant one-page summary Safety Data Sheets (SDS), attached to the chemical register(s)?Guidance: Randomly select three hazardous chemicals and ensure that the relevant SDS, for each chemical, is attached to the register.  |  |  |  |
| Are chemicals and containers correctly labelled in aligned with the [Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/globally-harmonised-system-classification-and-labelling-chemicals-ghs-information-sheet) and the [ACU Chemical Management Procedure](https://www.acu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/799838/ACU_Chemical_Management_Procedure_021215.pdf)?  |  |  |  |
| Are chemicals, which are not used straight away in a classroom demonstration, labelled?  |  |  |  |
| Are chemicals stored in compatible containers and storage areas? |  |  |  |
| Are chemicals securely stored in shelves? Guidance: ensure that chemicals are not stored too high on shelving systems or don’t present a falling objects hazard  |  |  |  |
| Are hazardous chemical risk assessments and associated safe work instructions accessible and understood by users?  |  |  |  |
| Is there any leakage of chemicals evident? |  |  |  |
| Are any chemicals stored in fume cupboards?  |  |  |  |
| Do the users of the laboratory know how to access and use *Chemwatch?*Guidance: These users should be able to access full SDS within *Chemwatch* |  |  |  |
| **Flammable Liquids**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are dry powder fire extinguishers accessible? |  |  |  |
| Are any flammables stored in refrigerators? |  |  |  |
| **Compressed Gas Cylinders**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Is the gas name/label on shoulder of each cylinder clearly legible? |  |  |  |
| Are cylinders secured by brackets or chains? |  |  |  |
| Are fuel cylinders separated from oxidising cylinders? |  |  |  |
| Are empty cylinders separate from full cylinders and clearly identified? |  |  |  |
| Are acetylene cylinders stored outside of building? |  |  |  |
| Are cylinder valves closed when not in use? |  |  |  |
| Are gas leak test procedures developed and implemented? |  |  |  |
| Are all gas cylinders stored in well ventilated area? |  |  |  |
| **Fume Cupboards**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are warning signs indicating a maximum of 2.5 litres of flammable liquid is permitted in the chamber, at any given time? |  |  |  |
| Are fume cupboards kept tidy? |  |  |  |
| **Biological Safety**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are contaminated waste procedures available and implemented?  |  |  |  |
| Are sharps stored appropriately?  |  |  |  |
| Are risk group category and containment procedures available and implemented?  |  |  |  |
| Are disposable gloves available for use in work area?  |  |  |  |
| **Biological Safety Continued…** | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Is appropriate decontamination of work surfaces in practice? |  |  |  |
| Is recombinant DNA project work assessed and certified by the University’s Institutional Bio-Safety Committee? |  |  |  |
| Are recombinant DNA laboratory areas inspected and certified by the University’s Institutional Bio-Safety Committee? |  |  |  |
| Is aerosol production minimised and contained? |  |  |  |
| **Radiation Safety** | Y | N |  |
| Are specific areas designated for radiation procedures?  |  |  |  |
| Is appropriate monitoring equipment available? |  |  |  |
| Are personal monitoring procedures in place? |  |  |  |
| Are absorbent materials available to contain spills? |  |  |  |
| Is radiation work certified by the Institutional BioSafety Committee? |  |  |  |
| Is shielding available and sufficient?  |  |  |  |
| Is radioactive material securely stored? |  |  |  |
| Are radioactive waste/storage procedures in place? |  |  |  |
| **Electrical Installations**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are adequate power points available and unobstructed? |  |  |  |
| Are switches and power points in good condition (no cracks, loose face plates)? |  |  |  |
| Are power leads in good condition? |  |  |  |
| Are excessive extension cords used in the work area?  |  |  |  |
| Do power cords create a trip hazard?Guidance: Assess whether cord covers should be purchased to help remove the trip hazard.  |  |  |  |
| Is there any temporary wiring in the work area? |  |  |  |
| Are double adaptors or piggy back adaptors used in the work area, which could potentially result in an overload and the risk of a fire?  |  |  |  |
| Are Residual Currency Device used for mobile electrical devices?  |  |  |  |
| **Equipment**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are operating instructions/safety signs adequate and clear? |  |  |  |
| Are emergency stop switches accessible and red in colour? |  |  |  |
| Are safety glasses available and storage clearly marked in the work area?  |  |  |  |
| Is there adequate distance between equipment? |  |  |  |
| **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**  |  |  |  |
| Is PPE readily available when required? |  |  |  |
| Is PPE stored and maintained correctly? |  |  |  |
| Are staff /students trained in correct use, storage and maintenance of PPE? |  |  |  |
| **First Aid**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are First Aid Officers identifiable in the work area?  |  |  |  |
| Are first aid/burn kits available in the work area?  |  |  |  |
| Is a first aid poster (containing a listing of local first aid officers) displayed in working and learning areas)  |  |  |  |
| **Emergency Procedures**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Have emergency procedures been established for specific hazardous circumstances including spills?Guidance: These emergency procedures should be aligned with the ACU Critical Incident Management Policy.  |  |  |  |
| Are there spill kits relevant to the area available, stocked and identifiable (e.g. Laboratory Spill kit, 240 litre Wheelie Bin)? |  |  |  |
| Are there staff adequately trained to manage low risk spills in the work area?  |  |  |  |
| Are staff/students able to access and knowledgeable about spill procedures?  |  |  |  |
| Are emergency and evacuation plans clearly displayed in the work area?  |  |  |  |
| Has an emergency evacuation been conducted in the past 12 months?  |  |  |  |
| Are emergency manifests established for the facility and available in an accessible area to emergency staff? |  |  |  |

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| **Manual Handling**  | **Y** | **N** |  |
| Are work items, which are regularly used, within easy reach?  |  |  |  |
| Is there enough space around machines/equipment to enable easy access?  |  |  |  |
| Are appropriate manual handling aids (trolley/ladder/safety step) available for use by staff members?  |  |  |  |

**Notes:**

(1)Contact a local WHS staff member to resolve first aid issues;

(2) Some issues, such as building facilities and fire safety, could be resolved by submitted a Service Central request; and

(3) Contact a relevant Employment Relations and Safety staff member, via Service Central, to resolve *Chemwatch* issues, including access and training need.

**WHS Inspection Sign Off**

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| **Inspectors’ (Staff Members) Name**  | **Signature**  | **Date**  |
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A copy of the completed inspection has been sent to:

**Appendix A: Corrective Actions Plan**

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| **Identified Hazard** | **Resolution (Actions)**  | **Responsibility**  | **Target Resolution Date**  | **Date Completed**  |
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