

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

December 11, 2009

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel  
**FROM:** John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee  
**SUBJECT:** December 7, 2009 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

**Participants:** John Park, Max Overman, Jeanne Carter, James Staley, Edith Henderson, Joe Jurgevich, Beth Swanson, Heather Parker

The two solvent waste barrels (room G102) were picked up by Veolia Environmental Services on December 7th. Two new barrels have been installed. The next solvent waste discard will be on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Kaasa conducted a safety audit of the laboratory on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. He felt that the lab is doing a good job regarding safety and there were just two items that he documented in his report as needing to be addressed:

- (1) There is a fire sprinkler riser located in storage room G108A (near the loading dock), and Steve requested that yellow lines be painted around the riser (approximately 1 to 2 feet on each side). This area would be designated to not be used for storage. Steve said that emergency personnel need to have unobstructed access to the riser.
- (2) In room G108, there is a small closet inside of which one of the pipes for the steam system is located. There was a small leak of water/steam from a stop valve on the pipe, which had resulted in mildew and wet carpeting.

Facilities management has been notified of these issues. Steve also noted that some of the exhaust snorkels that are not in use in the lab units could be turned off. And he asked whether MSDS forms are included with chemicals shipped from the lab to the regional offices, which we'll discuss more in the future.

Joy purchased the remaining supplies (bathmat, towels, etc.) for the safety shower that is located in the men's room. The supplies are stored in a white cabinet located in the men's room. As a reminder, the shower in the men's room is the only safety shower in the lab that is plumbed with hot water and that has a drain near the shower. This makes it the best shower to use for prolonged rinsing after an accident (following an initial rinse under one of the safety showers located throughout the lab).

The issue of wearing earphones (such as those used with ipods or CD players) was brought up as far as being a safety hazard. For now, there is not a policy in place regarding earphones in the lab, and it is left to each employee's discretion as to whether they feel safe using earphones. John said that he will discuss the issue with Kent Wiggins and/or Steve Kaasa.

The issue of removing the metal cap from the top of a gas cylinder was discussed. The protective cap screws onto threads located at the top of a cylinder, and the caps can sometimes be difficult to remove. This probably is due to the cylinders being stored outdoors, which can cause rusting of the metal, as well as the threading for the caps and cylinders wearing out over time. John will speak with David Wilson of Air Gas as far as maintaining the cylinders. John mentioned that a representative at Air Gas has been to the lab before to deal with this issue, and had tapped on the cap to loosen it. If you have trouble with removing the cap from a cylinder, please let John know. If the cap cannot be removed, the cylinder can be returned to the cylinder pen and John will make a record of it.

A draft list of Particularly Hazardous Substances located in the lab has been prepared and submitted to Steve Kaasa for review. This list will eventually be incorporated into the lab's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP). Note that this list consists of chemicals that fall into one of the following categories: suspected carcinogens; reproductive toxins; and substances with a high acute toxicity. Determining the chemicals that fall into one of these categories is based on lists prepared by OSHA and the information from the MSDS form for each chemical.

The issue of storage of ether and the potential for the formation of peroxide crystals was discussed. Over time, peroxide crystals can form around the lid of a container containing ether. The crystals are a fire and explosion hazard. We have not encountered this problem at the lab; however, it was noted that bottles containing ether waste should be dated so that ether waste can be regularly discarded into the solvent waste barrel. We will continue to look into this issue and determine if any other improvements need to be made.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and Jeanne Carter on December 11, 2009.

/mo/jc