Environmental Health & Safety

Working Alone in Research Labs

Laboratory Specific Working Alone Protocol Approval*

Lab Worker: ____________________________________________

Lab Location: ___________________________ Date: ____________

☐ This procedure does not involve any highly hazardous materials or processes. "Working Alone" is allowed.
☐ This procedure involves work with highly hazardous materials or processes. Check appropriate category:

Chemical Hazards: Working with any materials in these hazard classes requires a "buddy system"

☐ Pyrophoric Chemicals (ex.: Lithium Reagents: RLi (R = alkyl, aryl, vinyls); Metal carbonyls: Lithium carbonyl, Nickel tetracarbonyl; Metal hydrides: Potassium Hydride, Sodium hydride, Lithium Aluminum Hydride; Nonmetal hydrides: Arsine, Boranes, Diethylarsine, diethylphosphine, Germane, Phosphine, phenylphosphine, Silane; Elements: Phosphorus, Cesium, Lithium, Potassium, Sodium, Sodium Potassium Alloy (NaK)), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Pyrophoric

☐ Water Reactive Chemicals (ex.: Aluminum Carbide, Calcium, Calcium carbide, Lithium aluminum hydride, Potassium, Sodium), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class "substances which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases"

☐ Potentially Explosive Chemicals (ex.: Azide Metal (M-N3), Nitrate (-ONO2), Nitro (-NO2), Nitrile (-ON), Peroxide (-O-O-), Ammonium nitrate, Ammonium perchlorate, Benzoyl peroxide, Dinitrophenol, Nitrocellulose, Picric acid (trinitrophenol), Urea nitrate), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Explosive or Self-reactive

☐ Explosive Salts (ex.: Perochlorate salts (ClO4-)), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Explosive or Self-reactive

☐ Acutely Toxic Chemicals (ex.: Carbon Monoxide, Cyanide salts, Digoxin, 2,4-Dinitrophenol, Methyl mercaptan, Nitric oxide, Phosgene, Potassium cyanide, Sodium Azide, Sodium cyanide, any chemical with LD50 (oral)< 50 mg/kg) or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Acutely Toxic Category 1 or 2

☐ Peroxide Forming Chemicals (ex.: Isopropyl Ether, Methyl Isobutyl Ketone, Tetrahydrofuran, Acrylonitrile, Methyl Methacrylate, Styrene), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Peroxide

☐ Strong Corrosives (ex., Hydrochloric acid, Hydrofluoric acid, Nitric acid, Perchloric acid, Phenol, Sulfuric acid, Potassium hydroxide, Sodium hydroxide), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Corrosive

☐ Strong Oxidizing Agent (ex.: Ammonium perchlorate, Ammonium permanganate, Bromine, Calcium chloride, Calcium hypochlorite, Chromic acid, Hydrogen peroxide, Oxygen), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Oxidizer

☐ Strong Reducing Agents (ex.: Lithium, Lithium aluminum hydride, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, Sodium borohydride)

☐ Regulated Carcinogens (ex.: Acrylonitrile, Benzene, Formaldehyde, Gallium Arsenide, Inorganic Arsenic, Paraformaldehyde), or listed as OSHA Hazard Class Carcinogen

☐ Other:

Biological Hazards: Working with any materials in this hazard class requires a "buddy system"


☐ Other:

Process Hazards: Specify source when necessary

☐ Use of machine shop or lathes [identify specific equipment]

☐ Procedures involving high-pressure equipment [identify specific equipment]

☐ Transferring large quantities (e.g., 10 liters or more) of hazardous materials

☐ Handling animals that could cause serious injury

☐ High voltage, high current

☐ Other:

Health and Safety Requirements:

Can the person rescue themselves in case of an emergency? __ Yes ___ No

Identify the "Buddy" and confirm they are available before beginning work:

SB Guardian activated? A recorded message includes: Name, Building name/number, floor number, room/lab number and any highly hazardous processes/chemicals being used. Instructions for accessing SB Guardian: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emergency/guardian.html

The Laboratory Emergency Plan is posted near the lab phone. The names and phone numbers for the lab and building contacts are up to date.

Principal Investigator Approval:

I have reviewed the Hazard Assessment for this procedure, the tasks and hazards involved in the work, the consequences resulting from a worst-case scenario, the possibility of an accident or incident that would prevent the laboratory personnel from calling for help, the laboratory personnel’s training and experience and the time the work is to be conducted (during normal business hours versus at night or on weekends/holidays). This lab worker has permission to work alone on this procedure.

PI Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________

*This is a recommended form for labs to use when approving "Working Alone". The PI can change these recommended hazards that would require the Buddy System, unless required by another policy.

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