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### Isoflurane Use in Labs By Jessica Tyre

Isoflurane is a halogenated anesthetic gas commonly used in University animal research facilities and individual laboratories. Isoflurane is a clear, colorless volatile liquid at standard temperature and pressure with a mild ether-like odor. It is known to cause serious eye irritation and human exposure to waste anesthetic gases has been associated with reproductive effects. Sgns of acute exposure can include nausea, vomiting, nose/throat/respiratory irritation, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, skin irritation. Sgns of chronic exposure include hypotension (low blood pressure), tachycardia (increased heart rate), respiratory depression, and elevated blood glucose.

Regulatory Limits: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not have a



### Labeling and Transfer of Chemicals

By Ronnie Souza

#### Permanent Container Labels

Employers must ensure that no worker uses, stores, or allows any other person to use or store any hazardous substance in a laboratory if the container (including bags, barrels, bottles, boxes, cans, cylinders, drums and reaction vessels) does not meet the following

#### [29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(1)]:

The identity of the chemical and appropriate hazard warnings must be shown on the label.

The hazard warning must provide users with an immediate understanding of the primary health and/or physical hazard(s) of the hazardous chemical through the use of words, pictures, symbols, or any combination of these elements.

The name and address of the manufacturer, importer or other responsible party must be included on the label.

The hazard label message must be legible, permanently displayed and written in English.

#### Portable (Secondary) Container Labels

Often, laboratory operations require transferring chemicals from the original labeled container into a secondary container (e.g., beaker, flask, or bottle). Portable containers must comply with the labeling requirements listed above if any of the following events occur:

The material is not used within the work shift of the individual who makes the transfer.

The worker who made the transfer leaves the work area.

The container is moved to another work area and is no longer in the possession of the worker who filled the container.

Labels on portable containers are not required if the worker who made the transfer uses all of the contents during the work shift.

When a secondary container is used for longer than one shift or does not meet the requirements outlined in the Permanent Container Labels section above, a label needs to be applied to the secondary container. This label must contain two key pieces of information: the identity of the hazardous chemical(s) in the container (e.g., chemical name) and the hazards present. There are many ways to communicate this hazard information. Employers should select a system that will work for each location.

#### Replacement Container Label

The existing label on a container entering the workplace from a supplier must not be removed, altered or

container.

information as the original. Only use labels, ink and markings that are not soluble in the liquid content of the container.

## Laboratory Safety: Centrifuges

By Ronnie Souza

# Vertere Chemical Inventory

By Peter Nagle

As many of you know, UNE has a computerized chemical inventory program, Vertere Inventory

that any owner or user of chemicals can have access to the inventory for their own and/or department inventories through our web-based system. If you would like to see the inventory system for yourself, contact Peter Nagle in EH&S for a user name and password. Afterwards go to une.vertere.com and enter your user name and password for access to Vertere. After gaining access, follow these steps:

Click the home tab at the top of the column on the left hand side Click the chemical tab

Click on the View/Update tab in the left hand column

The ensuing menu offers the following options to search the inventory: Location, PI, Department, Chemical name and CAS#. For security reasons most users will not be able to view chemicals owned outside of their department or be able to edit the inventory.

Most laboratory chemicals are inventoried including acids, bases, flammable solvents and oxidizers. The goal is to document all of our hazardous chemicals stored on campus for regulatory reasons and inventory control. Optional items for the inventory include the following: buffer solutions, biochemicals such as enzymes and proteins, lab media, and products intended for consumer use such as bleach or cleaning solutions. If you have any questions, contact Peter Nagle in the EH&SDepartment.

### **Common Laboratory Accidents**

By Cat Martins, Benefits Administration Coordinator

The most common laboratory accident is a cut from broken glassware and sharp instruments. Teach employees working in the lab (including work study students) the proper method for using glassware and sharp instruments.

Always inspect glassware before using it and do not use chipped, cracked, or severely scratched glassware.

Never handle broken or chipped glass without using proper hand protection.

Dispose of all broken glass in a container that is assigned for b