

# Laboratory Management

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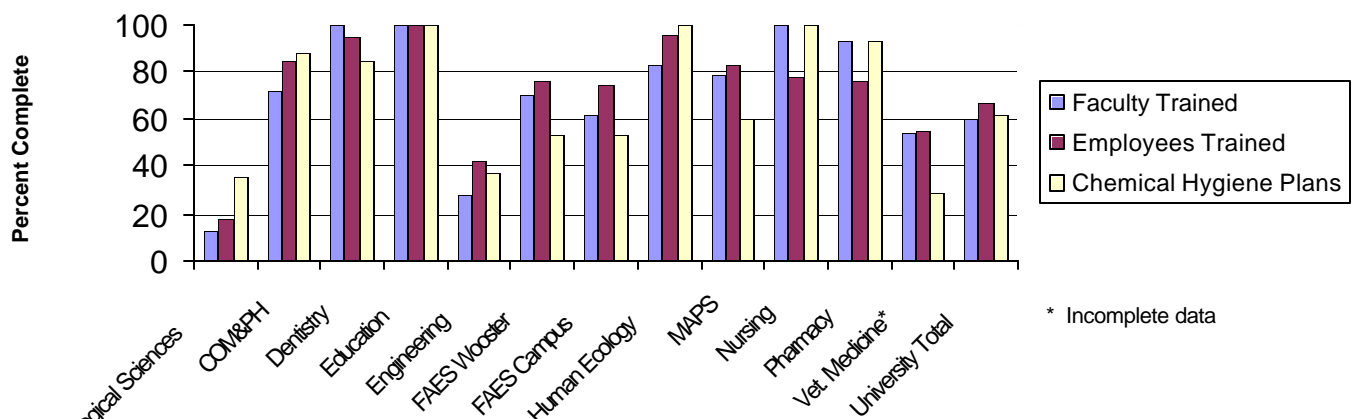
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## Colleges respond to safety challenge

One year ago, Executive Vice President and Provost Edward Ray and Vice President for Research C. Bradley Moore challenged the deans of colleges affected by OSHA's Lab Standard to complete implementation of the standard by the end of 2001. Over 180 faculty members and 749 lab employees received training in the past year. An additional 155 research groups have implemented chemical hygiene plans. As can be seen from the chart below, several colleges have essentially completed their implementation efforts with over 80% compliance in all categories. However, many colleges still have a significant amount of training to provide for faculty and staff and many have yet to complete their written chemical hygiene plans. Overall, the university is estimated to have implemented the program in 60% of affected laboratories.

Those who have implemented the lab standard have been pleasantly surprised with the benefits of doing so. Principal investigators are more comfortable with protocols that have been reviewed by their groups. This has improved consistency in experimental techniques and equipment operations. The protocols also have helped assure that all important points are communicated in a consistent manner and that critical safety instructions have been explained. Several faculty members were happy to dispose of chemicals that were no longer needed and that had potential for causing problems down the road. One faculty member was happy to regain lab space previously occupied by chemical storage. Those receiving grants were confident of having the proper records and documentation to assure granting agencies that federal safety standards were being met. Some worry less about liability and sleep better at night.

2002 University Lab Standard Implementation Report by College



\* Incomplete data

## Sample shipments require MSDSs

Are laboratories required to provide MSDSs with shipments of analytical samples? The OSHA Hazard Communication (HC) Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200 and 29 CFR 1926.59) establishes that laboratories that ship hazardous chemicals are considered to be either a chemical manufacturer or a distributor under the Standard. Therefore, laboratories must ensure that any containers leaving their sites are labeled in accordance with paragraph (f)(1), and must provide an MSDS to other employers in accordance with paragraphs (g)(6) and (g)(7). The determination as to whether or not a chemical is hazardous, as defined in the Standard, must be made in accordance with paragraph (d), Hazard Determination. The applicability of the MSDS and labeling requirements for various types of analytical samples, will vary depending upon the results of the hazard determination. In general, the following types of analytical samples are covered by the standard:

- ? Samples for which the identity of the chemical(s) is known and one which has been determined to be hazardous (e.g., product or raw material quality control samples, some experimental/developmental chemicals, some materials for destructive testing). In this case, MSDSs must be provided and containers must be labeled in accordance with the HC Standard.
- ? Air samples on collection media such as sorbents for which the identity and/or concentration of the chemical contaminants are not known, and where only minute amounts are likely to be present (e.g., industrial hygiene air samples), are not required to have MSDSs and labeling. (Note: Some liquid collection media such as solvents are hazardous and would require MSDSs and container labeling.)
- ? Samples for which the identity of the chemical(s) constituents are unknown or for which the identity is known but the hazard determination yields no indication of posing a hazard potential (e.g., investigational bulk samples of unknown liquids, solids, or particulates; some experimental/developmental chemicals). The HC Standard does not require testing to determine the hazards of chemicals. However, it is the responsibility of the manufacturer/distributor to obtain hazard information where it exists. Therefore, laboratories are responsible for obtaining such information from the provider of the sample. If there is no hazard information available, then MSDSs and labeling are not required by the HC Standard. However, written precautions should be provided to communicate what information is known (and what is not known) about the sample. Written precautions may include such phrases as: handle with care; the potential health and physical hazards are unknown or have not been evaluated; exposure through inhalation, skin contact/absorption, and ingestion should be avoided; or any other pertinent information to convey the necessary message.

## Feedback requested for chemical database

EHS wants your opinion and feedback regarding Chemwatch, a commercially available chemical management and database system, which is now available through May 8, 2002 for preview to the OSU research community. One of its strengths is its multilingual capabilities. Information is translated at the touch of a button. If the response is favorable, it will be made available at no cost for use by laboratory personnel through web access. Access to the system is at <http://www2.ehs.ohio-state.edu/chemwatch>

Please provide feedback to [governor.1@osu.edu](mailto:governor.1@osu.edu)