



FACT SHEET

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Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

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IS YOUR LABORATORY IN COMPLIANCE?

Laboratories in NYC must be permitted by the NYC Fire Department (FDNY). EH&S coordinates permitting and annual permit renewals which includes an inspection by the FDNY. The following are the "TOP TEN" most common violations the FDNY finds when visiting laboratories. Do your part to be proactive in preventing violations by reviewing the list and making changes when necessary. EH&S is available to visit your lab and review these issues.

- 1. Are flammable liquids stored only in flammable-proof or explosion-proof refrigerators/cold rooms?** Explosions, injuries and fires have started from storing flammable liquids in standard refrigerators/cold rooms. Remove all flammable liquids from standard refrigerators/cold rooms and store any flammables that must be refrigerated in flammable-proof or explosion-proof refrigerators/cold rooms.
- 2. Is the quantity of flammable liquids in the laboratory within the FDNY allowable limits?** The FDNY restricts the amount of flammable liquids that may be stored in a laboratory based on the FDNY Laboratory Type rating. Generally laboratories are restricted to 25-30 gallons. If operations require an inventory of flammable liquids in excess of storage limits or if you need help in determining the quantity of flammable liquids that may be stored in your lab, contact the Fire Safety Officer at X2031 for assistance.
- 3. Are all compressed gas cylinders secured?** Unsecured cylinders could tip over, break their valve and become projectiles. Compressed gas cylinders, empty or full, must be secured at all times with a chain, strap, stand or cart.
- 4. Is all material stored below 18" from the ceiling?** If items are stored within 18" of the ceiling, they block the fire sprinklers from spraying water which extinguishes fires. Move items stored within 18" of the ceiling to another location.
- 5. Are all bottles containing chemicals or hazardous chemical waste stored off the floor?** People frequently trip over glass containers resting on the floor causing chemical spills. Relocate chemical bottles to bench tops, shelves or cabinets.
- 6. Is a C14 Certificate of Fitness holder present at all times while the laboratory is in operation?** The FDNY requires that a C14 holder be present at all times while a laboratory is in operation. Visit EH&S website at <http://www.aecom.yu.edu/ehs/> under "FDNY C14 Information" for guidelines in obtaining a C14.
- 7. Are all C14s up to date?** The FDNY requires that C14s be renewed every 3 years. When you receive your renewal, send it to EH&S, Forchheimer 800. We will renew your certificate for you.
- 8. Are excess combustible materials stored in a way that they do not create fire/emergency egress hazards?** Excess storage of combustible materials creates fire/emergency egress hazards. Remove excess combustible materials and other debris from laboratories.
- 9. Are all corridors kept free of hazardous materials?** Storage in hallways is prohibited as it creates a fire/emergency egress hazard. Move chemicals to approved storage locations inside laboratories of chemical storage rooms.
- 10. Are all peroxide-forming chemical containers properly labeled and are all expired chemicals disposed?** Peroxide crystal formations may violently detonate when subjected to thermal or mechanical shock. Label and date all peroxide-forming chemicals with the "Date Received" and "Date Opened". Dispose of expire peroxide-forming chemicals.