



Sensitizers

Description

This standard operating procedure outlines the handling and use of sensitizers. Review this document and supply the information required in order to make it specific to your laboratory. In accordance with this document, laboratories should use appropriate controls, personal protective equipment, and disposal techniques when handling sensitizers.

Potential Hazards

A sensitizer (allergen) is a substance that causes exposed people to develop an allergic reaction in normal tissue after repeated contact with the substance. The reaction might be as mild as a rash (contact dermatitis) or as serious as anaphylactic shock. Sensitizers may also be corrosive or carcinogenic.

Examples of compounds that may cause sensitization in some individuals are diazomethane, various isocyanates, formaldehyde, toluene, latex, and benzylic and allylic halides.

Engineering Controls

Use a properly functioning lab fume hood when handling sensitizers that can be inhaled (via mist/fume/gas/vapor).

Work Practice Controls

For sensitizers that are also considered particularly hazardous substances, a designated area shall be established per the other applicable SOP(s).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

At minimum, safety glasses, lab coat, long pants, and closed toed shoes are to be worn when entering laboratories having hazardous chemicals.

Additionally, when handling hazardous chemicals or contacting potentially contaminated surfaces, protective gloves are to be worn. For proper selection of glove material, review the SDS or refer to the glove compatibility charts available through the EHS [Glove Use webpage](#).

For hazardous chemicals that are toxic via skin contact/absorption, additional protective clothing (i.e., face shield, apron, oversleeves) is appropriate where chemical contact with body/skin is foreseeable.

Goggles (not safety glasses) are appropriate for processes where splash or spray is foreseeable.

Transportation and Storage

Follow any substance-specific storage guidance provided in the SDS documentation.

Waste Disposal

Many sensitizers intended for disposal may likely be considered hazardous wastes. For general guidance regarding waste disposal, refer to the EHS [Hazardous Waste webpage](#). For specific guidance, contact EHS at (313) 593-0921.

Exposures/Unintended Contact



If the employee is in need of emergency medical attention, call 911 immediately.



Be prepared to provide them with a copy of the SDS so that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.

Report all work related accidents, injuries, illnesses or exposures to WorkConnections within 24 hours by completing and submitting the [Illness and Injury Report Form](#). Follow the directions on the WorkConnections website [Forms Instructions](#) to obtain proper medical treatment and follow-up.

Complete the [EHS Laboratory Incident and Near-Miss Report](#) form.

TREATMENT FACILITIES:

Midwest Medical Center -- *Campus Employees (including student employees)*

Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

9301 Middlebelt Road

Romulus, MI 48174

Phone: 734-941-1000

After hours - go to:

Midwest Medical Center

Open 24/7

4700 Schaefer

Dearborn, MI 48126

Phone: 313-581-2600

Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane -- *University students (non-life threatening conditions)*

19401 Hubbard Drive

Dearborn, MI 48126

Phone: 313-928-8278

Click [here](#) for additional accident and injury reporting information.

Spill Procedure

- When a spill occurs, ***personal safety should always come first.***
- Alert and clear everyone in the immediate area where the spill occurred.

For a small spill, inside the fume hood, use proper personal protective equipment as indicated above. Absorb the material with an absorbent, non-combustible material such as sorbent pads, sand or vermiculite. Collect residue, place in container and contact EHS (313) 593-0921 for proper disposal.

MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- Alert people in the laboratory to evacuate.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources. Don't light Bunsen burners or turn on other switches.
- **Call Public Safety at (313) 593-5333 or 911 from a campus phone immediately for assistance.**
- Close doors to affected area.
- Post warnings to keep people from entering the area.
- Have person available that has knowledge of incident and laboratory to assist emergency personnel.

Additional Spill Links:

- [Chemical Spill Control Information](#)

Report all emergencies, suspicious activity, injuries, spills, and fires to Public Safety by calling at (313) 593-5333 or 911 from a campus phone. Register with the University of Michigan-Dearborn [Emergency Alert System](#).

Training of personnel

All personnel are required to complete the ***Comprehensive Laboratory Safety*** session (BLS009 or equivalent) via [MyLINC](#). Furthermore, all personnel shall read and fully adhere to this SOP when handling sensitizers.

Certification

I have read and understand the above SOP. I agree to contact my Supervisor or Lab manager if I plan to modify this procedure.

Name	Signature	UM ID #	Date

Prior Approval required – Is this procedure hazardous enough to warrant prior approval from the Principal Investigator? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Principal Investigator _____

Revision Date _____