



RALPH J. HEXTER
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CA 95616
TEL: (530) 752-4964
FAX: (530) 752-2400
INTERNET: <http://provost.ucdavis.edu>

February 21, 2013

COUNCIL OF DEANS AND VICE CHANCELLORS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

RE: New Systemwide Laboratory Safety Policies

Dear Colleagues:

The University of California is committed to providing a safe environment for conducting our research mission, including the health and safety of laboratory personnel. I write to ask you to redouble your commitment to safe laboratory practices by helping the campus implement new mandatory safety policies.

This lab safety initiative is driven, in part, by the UC Regents' recent settlement agreement with the Los Angeles District Attorney over the tragic death of a UCLA graduate student in a laboratory accident. This settlement imposes specific guidelines and time frames for implementation. Perhaps more important, I hope you will agree that we want our laboratory work practices to be as safe as possible to minimize the risk and cost of preventable injury, illness or death to our colleagues.

Deans, department heads and principal investigators carry a significant responsibility for establishing and enforcing safe practices in the laboratories they oversee. Failure to maintain proper workplace safety standards, in addition to relevant campus disciplinary actions, may lead to criminal charges if such failure causes campus affiliates to be injured or worse.

The following new policies apply to all persons who enter laboratories where chemicals or other potential hazards are in use. Safety Services is launching a campaign to communicate these policies to the UC Davis research community. I request your support and compliance with these policies.

Summary of the New Safety Policies

The following provides a brief overview of each new systemwide policy. Please read the policy documents for details.

- 1) **Minimum PPE Requirement**
www.ucop.edu/risk-services/files/safety-resources/personal-protective-equipment-2012-01-09.pdf
 - All personnel entering a lab where use or storage of hazardous materials occurs or a physical hazard exists, must wear all appropriate personal protective equipment as determined by a written hazard assessment.
 - If no hazard assessment has been completed, the default PPE requirement is full-length pants, or equivalent, covering the ankles; shoes with closed toes and heels; a lab coat; and safety eyewear. If flammable materials are being used, a flame-resistant lab coat must be worn.

- Any exceptions to PPE requirements, as identified in the hazard assessment, must be approved in writing by the UC Davis Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).
- 2) **Minimum Training Requirement**
www.ucop.edu/risk-services/files/safety-resources/lab-safety-training-2012-01-09.pdf
- All laboratory personnel, support staff or visitors must complete the Laboratory Safety Fundamentals training course before being admitted to a laboratory.
- 3) **Minimum Age Requirements**
www.ucop.edu/risk-services/files/safety-resources/minors-in-labs-policy-2012-01-09.pdf
- Minors 12 years or age or younger may not enter UC Davis research laboratories, shops, or vivaria other than as part of an approved and supervised tour.
 - Minors between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age are allowed in UC Davis laboratories or vivaria with the written consent of their parent(s) or guardian, when accompanied by a trained and knowledgeable campus supervisor. They must follow the safety training requirements described in PPM 290-32, Minors in University Facilities (<http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/ppm/290/290-32.pdf>).

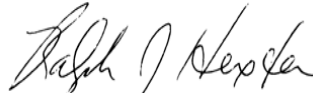
Policy Effective Date

UCOP has established March 1, 2013 as the effective date for the new policies on all campuses. On that date, a systemwide meeting is being held at UCOP in Oakland to enable department chairs who have laboratory operations to provide feedback on the implementation process. The goal is to ensure that our laboratory safety efforts are effective and sustainable.

Complete lab safety resources can be found on the Safety Services website, <http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/labsafety>.

Compliance with these new policies and all approved laboratory operating procedures will keep UC Davis labs in full compliance with Cal/OSHA standards as mandated under California law. Thank you for your support in implementing these new policies.

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor