

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Supervisors shall assess the workplaces of their employees to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The Laboratory Supervisor will select and have each affected employee use the types of PPE that will protect them from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment. To promote compliance with PPE requirements and to encourage enforcement Laboratory Supervisors must establish clear policies to delineate when the use of PPE is required. For example, “staff members must wear a lab coat and eye protection when working at the lab bench.” The Office of Research Safety is available on request to assist with the selection or assignment of appropriate PPE.

Supervisors shall provide PPE training to employees required to use PPE. Training shall include the following:

- When PPE is necessary
- What PPE is necessary
- How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE
- Limitations of the PPE
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE.

Such training shall be provided before employees are allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE.

Re-training is required under the following circumstances:

- Changes in the workplace render previous training obsolete
- Changes in the types of PPE to be used render previous training obsolete
- An affected employee demonstrates a lack of understanding of proper use of the PPE.

Body Protection (e.g. lab coats)

Each affected employee must wear protective clothing to protect the body from recognized hazards.

Unprotected skin surfaces that are at risk of injury should be covered. Full length pants or a full-length skirt must be worn at all times by all individuals that are occupying the laboratory area; shorts are not permitted. Lab coats, coveralls, aprons, or protective suits are required to be worn while working on, or adjacent to, all procedures using hazardous chemicals or infectious materials at biosafety level 2 or higher.

Lab coats must be appropriately sized for the individual and be fastened (snap buttons are recommended) to their full length. Lab coat sleeves must be of a sufficient length to prevent skin exposure while wearing gloves. Flame resistant lab coats must be worn when using pyrophoric materials or flammable liquids greater than 1 liter in volume.

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Lab coats should not be worn outside of the lab unless the individual is traveling directly to an adjacent lab work area. Lab coats should not be worn in common areas such as break rooms, offices, or restrooms. Each department is responsible for providing laundry services as needed to maintain the hygiene of laboratory coats. They may not be cleaned by staff members at private residences or public laundry facilities. Alternatives to laundering lab coats include routinely purchasing new lab coats for employees to replace contaminated lab coats, hiring a professional garment laundering service, or using disposable lab coats. Departments can also choose to purchase a washer and dryer and launder their own lab coats.

Eye and Face Protection

Laboratory personnel must wear eye protection when handling hazardous chemicals in the lab. All eye protection equipment must be American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved and appropriate for the work being done. Eye and face protection may not be required in the lab if the employee is sitting at a workstation or desk that is away from chemical processes (e.g., working at a desktop computer, having a lab meeting at a table not adjacent to hazardous operations).

Face protection equipment must be used in conjunction with eye protection when potentially exposed to hazards from chemical splash, flying debris, or other exposures (e.g. UV light) that may occur in the laboratory

Hand/Skin Protection

Employees must wear chemical protective clothing and/or gloves to minimize potential skin exposures to hazardous chemicals. No single glove or clothing article provides protection against all hazards. Employees should only use chemical protective clothing and gloves that are resistant to the hazardous chemicals of concern. Employees may also need gloves or protective clothing that provides puncture resistance and/or thermal protection.

Manufacturers of protective clothing and gloves publish chemical resistance, thermal protection and puncture resistance data for their protective clothing and gloves. Chemical resistance data may include permeation, degradation and penetration information. For work with hazardous chemicals, the selected chemical protective clothing or glove should resist permeation, degradation, and penetration by the respective chemicals.

