

Laboratory Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes of Wednesday, February 25, 2010

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM, SSB 4220

Present: K. Baines, J. Dickey, K. Galil, G. Kidder, R. Maslen, A.M. McCusker, G. Qubty, S. Salisbury, J. Sparks, J. Stanley

Regrets: S. Mittler, J. O'Brien

Recorder: F. Lee :

1.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: J. Dickey

2.0 Approval of October 20th Minutes.

Motion to Approve: J. Dickey

Seconded by: K. Baines

Minutes Approved

3.0 New Business

3.1 Additions to the Lab Safety Manual

3.1.1 Cryogenic Liquids.

A.M McCusker briefly summarized a proposed addition to the manual for to address transporting cryogenic materials in elevators.

The issue of practicality was discussed and the recommended process included using a chain with a caution sign inside the elevator while cryogenic liquids are inside.

The maximum quantity allowed needs to be posted. As well as educating all Western users, delivery people will need to be educated in the process.

A.M McCusker will contact physical plant regarding the requirements and will work with the departments in working out the process for each affected location.

A. M McCusker will revised the plan and report back to the committee.

3.1.2 Service Animals in Laboratories

A.M McCusker introduced a statement regarding service animals in laboratories that will be added to the laboratory safety manual to meet AODA requirements. No changes were recommended.

3.2 **AUS Chemical Safety (SOP)**

3.2.1 Draft SOP for Use of Chemicals with Live Animals

A.M. McCusker introduced an SOP that has been developed by OHS to eliminate repetitive review items that occur on the AUS form. A.M. McCusker requested the committee to send questions or comments to her.

4.0 **Business Arising**

4.1 **Eyewash/safety shower testing**

A.M. McCusker updated the committee on the Eyewash/Safety Shower program which is now fully implemented. Issues arising were discussed and it was noted that the inventory of safety shower and eyewashes have increased since the implementation of this program.

R. Maslen recommended that record could be kept in the safety binder in the laboratories instead of on tags. This will work for labs with many showers or that have difficulty with writing on the tags.

4.2 **Lab Safety Inspections**

4.2.1 Program Update

A.M. McCusker informed the Committee of the current trends of the laboratory inspections. 2009 saw a decrease in the compliance. The compliance and the type of findings in each faculty were summarized.

There is no difference between the compliance of first time inspection compared to labs that have previously been inspected.

4.2.2 Strategy for Improving Compliance

A.M. McCusker asked the committee for possible strategies to improve compliance. The committee suggested that the decrease in compliance is attributed to poor laboratory practices. Various options were discussed to determine effective means of improving compliance.

It was suggested that those supervisors not in compliance could be retrained in the supervisor training.

Major and minor non-compliance was discussed and a distinction between repeat and first time offenses needs to be recognized

The committee determined that chemical labeling should be considered as a major issue. It was suggested that a laboratory that has repeated offenses be given a special designation. It was also suggested that the degree of repeating infractions need to be recognized. Increasing frequencies of inspection without notifying the P.I. was also suggested

5.0 New Business

Dr. Baines will be on a study leave next year. The acting chair will temporarily replace her on the Lab Safety Committee.

6.0 Adjournment

Motion to move: J. Dickey Seconded by: R. Maslen

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM