

General Use SOP for Carcinogens

#1	Process or Experiment Description
<p>This standard operating procedure (SOP) is intended to provide general guidance on how to safely work with carcinogenic materials. This general use SOP only addresses safety issues specific to carcinogenic hazards of chemicals. In some instances, several general use SOPs may be applicable for a specific chemical (i.e., for benzene, both general use SOPs for flammables and carcinogens would apply). If you have questions concerning the applicability of any item listed in this procedure contact the Principal Investigator/Laboratory Supervisor of your laboratory or Environmental Health and Safety (x3-0448).</p>	
#2	Hazardous Chemicals/Class of Hazardous Chemicals
<p>A carcinogen (defined as “select carcinogen” by Cal/OSHA) is a substance or agent that meets one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is regulated by Cal/OSHA as a carcinogen. 2. It is listed under the category, “known to be carcinogens” in the Annual Report on Carcinogens published by the National Toxicology Program (NTP)(latest edition); or 3. It is listed under Group 1 (“carcinogenic to humans”) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) 4. It is listed in either Group 2A or 2B by IARC or under the category, “reasonably anticipated to be carcinogens” by NTP, and causes statistically significant tumor incidence in experimental animals in accordance with any of the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) After inhalation exposure of 6-7 hours per day, 5 days per week, for a significant portion of a lifetime to dosages of less than 10 mg/m³; (b) After repeated skin application of less than 300 mg/kg of body weight per week; or (c) After oral dosages of less than 50 mg/kg of body weight per day. 	
#3	Control of Hazards - General
<p>Although the specific SOPs will vary according to the material used, the following guidelines are generally applicable for projects involving carcinogens:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the smallest amount of chemical that is consistent with the requirements of the work to be performed. 2. Use containment devices (such as lab fume hoods or glove boxes) when: (i) volatilizing these substances, (ii) manipulating substances that may generate aerosols, and (iii) performing laboratory procedures that may result in uncontrolled release of the substance. 3. Use high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, carbon filters, or scrubber systems with containment devices to protect effluent and vacuum lines, pumps, and the environment whenever feasible. 4. Use ventilated containment to weigh out solid chemicals. Alternatively, the tare method can be used to prevent inhalation of the chemical. While working in a laboratory hood, the chemical is added to a pre-weighed container. The container is then sealed and can be re-weighed outside of the hood. If chemical needs to be added or removed, this manipulation is carried out in the hood. In this manner, all open chemical handling is conducted in the laboratory hood. 	
#3a	Engineering/Ventilation Controls
<p>Use a properly functioning lab fume hood when handling carcinogens. If the process does not permit the handling of such materials in a fume hood, contact Environmental Health and Safety at x3-0448 for reviewing the adequacy of ventilation measures.</p>	
#3b	Personal Protective Equipment
<p>In addition to proper street clothing (<i>long pants (or equivalent) that covers legs and ankles, and close-toed non-perforated shoes that completely cover the feet</i>), wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when performing lab operations/tasks involving carcinogens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety glasses (if splash potential exists, use goggles + face shield instead) • Lab coat (if working with large amounts of flammable materials (≥ 1 liter), wear a fire-resistant lab coat, such as Nomex) • Appropriate chemical-resistant gloves 	
#4	Special Handling Procedures and Storage Requirements
<p>Ensure secondary containment and segregation of incompatible chemicals per guidance within the <u>SU Chemical Hygiene Plan</u>. Also, follow any substance-specific storage guidance provided in MSDS documentation.</p>	
#5	Spill and Accident Procedures
<p>Prompt response to chemical spills is critical to protect worker health & safety and to mitigate adverse affects to the environment. For further guidance, refer to “<u>Response to Chemical Spills and Exposures</u>”.Laboratory personnel who work with hazardous chemicals are to be provided the opportunity to receive medical attention/consultation when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spill, leak, explosion or other occurrence results in a hazardous exposure (potential overexposure). • Symptoms or signs of exposure to a hazardous chemical develop. 	
#6	Waste Disposal

Carcinogens intended for disposal are considered hazardous wastes. For general guidance regarding waste disposal, refer to: <https://ehs.stanford.edu/topic/waste-disposal>

#7 Minimum Training Requirements

- General Safety & Emergency Preparedness (EHS-4200)
- Chemical Safety for Laboratories (EHS-1900)
- Laboratory-specific training

#8 Approval Required

Consult with PI regarding need for prior approval. Laboratory personnel shall seek and the PI must provide prior approval of any chemical usage involving the following list of restricted chemicals.

#9 Decontamination Procedures

Personnel: Immediately after working with carcinogens, remove gloves, wash hands and arms with soap and water.
Area: Decontamination procedures vary depending on the material being handled; consult the MSDS. The toxicity of some materials can be neutralized with other reagents. All surfaces should be wiped with the appropriate cleaning agent following dispensing or handling. Waste materials generated should be treated as a hazardous waste.
Equipment: Decontaminate vacuum pumps or other contaminated equipment (glassware) before removing them from the designated area.

#10 Designated Area

For use of carcinogens, a designated area shall be established where limited access, special procedures, knowledge, and work skills are required. A designated area can be the entire laboratory, a specific laboratory workbench, or a laboratory hood. Designated areas must be clearly marked with signs that identify the chemical hazard and include an appropriate warning; for example: WARNING! FORMALDEHYDE WORK AREA - CARCINOGEN.

- Upon leaving the designated area, remove any personal protective equipment worn and wash hands, forearms, face, and neck.
- After each use (or day), wipe down the immediate work area and equipment to prevent accumulation of chemical residue.
- At the end of each project, thoroughly decontaminate the designated area before resuming normal laboratory work in the area.