

## Lesson Learned Briefing

**No.:** LL11-0027

**Title:** Container Labeling, Area Posting and Chemical Storage

**Event:** LBNL Event

**Event Date:** 08/25/2011

**Category:** ES&H - Chemical Hygiene

### Lesson Learned Statement:

Laboratory safety inspections have shown that, while conditions and work practices are generally good, periodic lapses in container labeling, area posting and use of drip trays occur. It is important to remain vigilant about these controls because they help protect the worker and his/her coworkers.

### Discussion:

In general, it is recognized that proper controls, such as ventilated fume hoods and personal protective equipment, are routinely used. However, deficiencies in container labeling, entrance placarding and use of drip trays are more commonly found. These controls are important in keeping personnel safe.

### Container Labeling

Secondary containers are jars, cans, squeeze bottles and other containers that hazardous materials are transferred to from the chemical's original (manufacturer) container. Secondary containers need to be labeled. Labeling requirements vary depending on where and how chemicals are used. In laboratory settings, secondary containers must be labeled with the chemical name. In non-laboratory areas, such as machine shops, and for non-laboratory uses, such as custodial services, secondary containers must be labeled with both the name and the hazard of the material. See the Chemical Hygiene and Safety Plan Labeling Section ([http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/chsp/html/training\\_\\_\\_info.shtml#Labeling](http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/chsp/html/training___info.shtml#Labeling)) for additional guidance on labeling and for information on the regulatory background.

### Entrance Placard

Entrances to technical areas (laboratories and shops) need to be posted with a Caution Placard listing the area's hazards, the minimum PPE requirements, existing authorizations and emergency contact information. Instructions for downloading the placards and for filling them out can be found in the Chemical

Hygiene and Safety Plan, in the Posting Section  
([http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/chsp/html/training\\_\\_\\_info.shtml#Posting](http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/chsp/html/training___info.shtml#Posting)).

### Drip Trays

It is also important to remember to keep liquid hazardous materials in drip trays. These are used to contain leaks and spills, and they come in a variety of sizes and materials. Polypropylene photo trays are commonly employed, but trays made of other materials, such as stainless steel and pyrex, can also be used. Drip tray capacity must be 110% of the largest container or 10% of the aggregate volume of all containers, whichever is larger. Information on drip tray selection, chemical resistance and ordering is provided in the Chemical Hygiene section entitled, Chemical Storage (<http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/chsp/html/storage.shtml>).

**Priority Boxes:**  ORPS Reportable  OSHA Recordable  PAAA  Other

**ISM Code:** Develop and Implement Hazard Controls

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