LHAT - Frequently Asked Questions

POLICY

What do I need to know about the new policies?

On June 12, 2013, President Yudof informed the UC community that he signed three important new policies into effect:

- Laboratory Safety Training
- Minors in Laboratories & Shops
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Laboratory Safety Training and the Minors in Laboratories & Shops policies went into effect on October 31, 2013, and the PPE policy went into effect on March 31, 2014.

The policy changes affect all laboratory workers including students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty or other academic appointees, staff, visitors, and volunteers.

LHAT

What is the purpose of the LHAT (Laboratory Hazard Assessment Tool)?

LHAT provides a platform for Principal Investigators, or Responsible Person, to identify laboratory hazards and specify required personal protective equipment (PPE). In addition, LHAT facilitates PPE training and distribution.

What is the role of the Principal Investigator (PI)?

PI's use the LHAT to create lab groups and assess workplace hazards. The tool then determines what PPE is required, though PI's can add additional PPE requirements. The complete steps of the process are:

1) Log into LHAT, identify a laboratory or laboratories, and perform a hazard assessment.
2) Search for lab staff to invite into their lab. *Note: Only lab staff who have been entered into the University payroll system have been preloaded into LHAT.*
3) For those not found searching the PI (or delegate) will need invite lab workers to register inside of LHAT using the lab workers @ucsc.edu email address.
4) Assign a delegate or designee to perform some of these actions (optional)

Who is a Lab Worker?

A lab worker is anyone in a lab situation that might be in proximity to harmful and hazardous materials.

1) Upon being added to a group lab workers should review the hazard assessment and recommended PPE, complete associated PPE training, and contact the PPE Office to be fitted for appropriate PPE.

2) Anyone with an @ucsc.edu email can login to LHAT and update their User Info. Updating user information will update the LHAT database and ensure the PI will be able to find and add the lab worker.

PPE DISTRIBUTION

What equipment was purchased and what is the cost?

The initial roll-out of the PPE Program included 10,000 face shields, over 94,000 lab coats and 135,000 pairs of protective eyewear purchased by UCOP, and is being provided to eligible laboratory staff free of charge. On-going PPE is being funded by UCSC EH&S.
Current lab coat models are available in both a male and female cuts and include a traditional poplin lab coat, a knit-cuffed barrier lab coat and a flame-resistant lab coat. The coats are offered in sizes that range from double-extra-small to triple-extra-large. A selection of tall sizes are offered as well.
Protective eyewear includes a diverse selection of ANSI Z87 certified, impact resistant, safety glasses and chemical splash goggles. Both of these styles will also be offered in a selection of "over-the-glasses" versions designed to fit over prescription glasses. Note that prescription glasses are NOT designed to protect your eyesight from impact or splash hazards. People requiring the use of bi-focal lenses will be offered reader-style ANSI Z87 safety glasses ranging in magnification from 1.0 to 3.0.

How does a lab worker receive their PPE distribution?

All eligible workers must first review the laboratory hazard assessment in LHAT, which details the type of PPE that is required to work in their lab, and then complete the short PPE training. After completing these steps the lab worker is encouraged to contact the PPE Office to receive their PPE.

What will the lab worker receive?

Contingent on the results of the hazard assessment, most workers will receive one lab coat (extra lab coats are available in most labs and additional can be distributed if needed) and a pair of safety glasses and splash goggles. Three lab coats styles are available (dependent on hazard assessment): traditional, barrier, and flame-resistant. The protective eyewear options include a diverse set of ANSI Z87 certified impact resistant safety glasses and chemical splash goggles. In addition, each lab worker will be assigned to a laundry location to drop off and pick up their coats.

LAUNDRY

How does the laundering program work?

Lab coats cannot be laundered at home, and must go through a qualified commercial laundry service. Commercial laundry facilities are equipped to properly clean lab coats with *incidental* amounts of hazardous materials. Coats that have become significantly contaminated should be disposed of as hazardous waste.

The UCSC laundering program is paid for by EH&S and provided for lab workers to maintain PPE:

- Dirty coats go into a specially marked hampers at each laundry location; clean coats are returned on hangers.

What's the difference between soiled lab coat and a contaminated coat?

Deciding whether a lab coat should be laundered or treated as a hazardous waste is a judgment call and depends on the hazardous material(s) involved, quantity of hazardous material spilled on the lab coat, and other circumstances pertaining to that incident. Consult with your Safety Data Sheet, your lab safety manager and EH&S for specific guidance if you are uncertain.

Significant contamination includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Radioactive materials
- Anything which compromises the function and or integrity of the lab coat. (e.g. holes greater than 2 inches)
- Lab coats that are saturated with a hazardous chemical to the point that they pose a risk should be treated as hazardous waste
- Highly toxic substances that pose a dermal exposure risk.