



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 75.09, **General Laboratory Use Policy**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Operating Policy and Procedure (HSCEP OP) is to comply with guidelines and/or regulations applicable to laboratory procedures and to provide for the safety of personnel working in or with access to laboratories. It is intended to establish guidelines to:

1. Identify space within the institution in which laboratory work (such as research, diagnostics, teaching) takes place;
2. Identify space in which laboratory work involving hazardous materials (such as radioisotopes, chemicals, biological material, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules) or animals takes place;
3. Reduce institutional risk through implementation of chemical/biological inventory controls, and accountability programs, including procurement review.
4. Verify that special approvals for any type of activity requiring such approval have been obtained;
5. Verify that the space is suitable for the designated activities, and that all special safety requirements for that type of activity are being met;
6. Designate a qualified individual and alternate to be responsible for the activities conducted and the personnel working in that space;
7. Identify personnel working in or having access to that space with access limitations provided as necessary; and
8. Provide adequate training of personnel for the designated type of activity and to meet applicable rules, regulations, and good practice standards.

REVIEW: This HSCEP OP will be reviewed on May 15 of each even-numbered year (ENY) by the Senior Director of Safety Services, the Managing Director for Physical Plant and Support Services, with recommendations for revisions sent to the Assistant Vice President for Research and the Chief Operating Officer by August 31.

POLICY/PROCEDURES:

1. **Definitions.**

- a. Amendment: Document indicating changes in activities, laboratory location or space, or laboratory workers.
- b. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC): The institutional committee responsible for approval, training, risk analysis and oversight related to care and use of animals for teaching and research.

- c. Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC): The institutional committee responsible for approval, training, risk analysis and oversight related to all use of hazardous biologically and/or chemically hazardous materials.
- d. Recombinant DNA Biosafety Committee (RDBC): The institutional committee responsible for oversight related to all use of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules on all TTUHSC El Paso campuses.
- e. Institutional Radiation Safety Committee (RSC): The institutional committee responsible for approval, training, risk analysis and oversight related to all use of radioactive materials.
- f. Laboratory: Any space within TTUHSC El Paso facilities in which chemicals, biological agents or animals are used for research and educational activities, excluding space occupied by the Laboratory Animal Resource Center (LARC).
- g. Laboratory Worker: Any person working in a laboratory, regardless of the person's employment status. This includes faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visiting associates.
- h. Principal Investigator (PI): That person who has been designated as being responsible for the laboratory space, including supervision of research and staff. (See HSCEP OP75.10, Section 1.1.) Such designation shall be made in writing by the Department Chair/Unit Supervisor. An alternate individual shall be designated as responsible when the Principal Investigator is unavailable or absent.
- i. Protocol: Description of the procedures involving animals, biohazardous materials, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, chemical materials, or radioactive material, the laboratory in which the procedures will be done and the techniques/procedures used to contain hazards and protect personnel. Protocols will be submitted on the specific forms developed by the IACUC, IBC, RSC, RDBC, and Safety Services.
- j. Training: Instruction given to all persons working in a laboratory to include:
 - (1) Information about rules, regulations and guidelines applicable to the designated activities;
 - (2) Basic safety information about laboratory work;
 - (3) Specialized safety information as required by the designated activities; and
 - (4) Specialized, on-the-job training by the Principal Investigator or Supervisor applicable to the designated activities.
 - (5) All laboratory workers must complete the "Laboratory Safety Essentials" training course.
- k. Chemical/Biological Inventory: A complete listing of chemical and/or biological materials in the possession of the Principal Investigator responsible for the laboratory space. The list shall include, but is not limited to, the chemical and/or biological material name or description, quantity or amount possessed, and physical form.

2. Program.

- a. General Policies.
 - (1) All laboratory procedures shall be conducted in space approved for that purpose.
 - (2) Signs or markings with the words "Authorized Personnel Only" will be placed on all laboratory entrance doors opening to areas accessible to the general public.

- (3) Laboratory door(s) shall be locked and secured when laboratory personnel are not present in the laboratory.
- (4) The Principal Investigator shall contact Safety Services and provide a description of the anticipated activities. Safety Services shall advise the Principal Investigator if the anticipated activities require approval by the IBC, IACUC, RSC, RDBC, or other committee(s). If such approval is required, the Principal Investigator shall submit a protocol to the appropriate committee. That committee shall review the protocol and, in consultation with Safety Services, shall be responsible for designating the type of training or precautions which will be required for laboratory workers and any special safety procedures which will need to be implemented in the laboratory. Any activities not requiring approval by these committees shall require review and approval by Safety Services of the activities, space and training of laboratory workers. Records pertaining to such approval shall be maintained by Safety Services. Amendments covering planned changes in protocol or procedures and laboratory workers shall be submitted to the original approval entity.
- (5) Activities involving use of hazardous materials shall be approved by the appropriate oversight committee before any activity begins in the laboratory.
- (6) All Principal Investigators shall provide a chemical/biological inventory to Safety Services upon initial assignment to a laboratory space, and shall provide an inventory update at least annually, or as required or is appropriate.
- (7) All Principal Investigators shall be qualified and credentialed as knowledgeable and trained in the laboratory activity and be capable of providing on-the-job training to personnel working in the laboratory. Credentialing will be performed by Safety Services or the appropriate committee with oversight responsibility.
- (8) All persons working in the laboratory (including volunteers) shall receive the appropriate training and be certified for such training before being allowed to work in the laboratory.
- (9) All records of training and approval of special activities shall be maintained in a central location under the overall supervision of the Department of Safety Services.
- (10) This policy applies to all TTUHSC El Paso facilities. Implementation at individual facilities will require submission by the chief administrative officer at each site of an addendum defining responsibilities at that site under the aegis of the oversight committee and the Department of Safety Services.

b. Responsibilities:

- (1) It is the responsibility of the departmental chair/unit supervisor to:
 - (a) Designate a Principal Investigator to be responsible for laboratory space and the designated activities conducted therein;
 - (b) Provide each Principal Investigator with a current copy of this policy and any subsequent revisions;

- (c) Evaluate the Principal Investigator on a regular basis to determine whether laboratory responsibilities have been met (including safety and security measures);
 - (d) Initiate corrective action as necessary, and
 - (e) Provide contact information to Safety Services and Physical Plant for emergencies.
- (2) It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to:
- (a) Notify Safety Services in writing of the activities to be conducted in the laboratory and the personnel involved;
 - (b) Obtain necessary approvals from the appropriate oversight committees for activities to be conducted in the laboratory involving use of hazardous materials, or from Safety Services for activities not involving oversight by these committees. Refer to HSCEP OP 75.10 and 75.11, the Laboratory Compliance Manual, the Radiation Safety Manual, the Laser Safety Manual, and the Institutional Safety Manual;
 - (c) Verify that laboratory workers have had training appropriate for the specific designated activities ongoing in the laboratory for which they have responsibility;
 - (d) Provide job-specific, site-specific and appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) training for personnel working in the laboratory for which they have responsibility;
 - (e) Maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of authorized personnel, which shall be readily available to auditors, inspectors, and security personnel, and submit as necessary to Safety Services to maintain accuracy of licensing information;
 - (f) Provide proper signage to indicate that designated activities have received the necessary approvals, the safety protocols that are in effect and the appropriate access limitations that may be in effect; and
 - (g) Submit amendments to protocols and procedures as required.
 - (h) Provide contact information to Safety Services and Physical Plant and Support Services for emergencies.
- (3) It is the responsibility of Safety Services to:
- (a) Provide basic training for all laboratory and support workers;
 - (b) Work with Principal Investigators to evaluate the designated activities for special requirements for approvals, training of laboratory workers and safety provisions within the laboratory itself;
 - (c) Provide specialty training as necessary;
 - (d) Provide the oversight committees and individual Principal Investigator with information about current and new regulations and guidelines related to designated activities; and

- (e) Provide proper maintenance of records.
- (4) It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to notify Safety Services of any new employee hired to work in a laboratory, or any volunteer working in a laboratory, and the date of termination of any employee or volunteer working in a laboratory.
- (5) It is the responsibility of Volunteer Services to ensure that volunteers working in laboratories complete the Volunteer Safety Orientation training program and Laboratory Safety Essentials training.