

Davis, Linda S

From: Davis, Linda S
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2008 3:12 PM
To: 'chme@ecn.purdue.edu'; 'chmegrad@ecn.purdue.edu'
Cc: 'Gauger, Steve A'; 'muench@ecn.purdue.edu'; 'xingya@purdue.edu'
Subject: Safety Update #5: Labeling and Waste Issues

ChE Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students,

The following information originated with Linda Liu and the LORRE Safety Committee. We face the same safety issues in ChE.

Container Labels - Please do not forget to cover and label all liquid containers. At the July 11, 2008 COE Safety Committee meeting it was stated that "There are numerous financial issues related to safety. REM reports that one mis-labeled chemical waste bottle can accumulate \$32,500/label/day during an EPA inspection. An injured student without documented training can create multi-million dollar issues for the College. We should be busy avoiding potential future safety and financial problems." Mis-labeled containers are a clear and obvious violation with potential serious consequences. Please help each other out by checking work areas and reminding others of mis-labeling. Minimum labeling requirements are chemical name, chemical composition, date and owner's name.

HPLC Waste Containers - On August 14, 2008, the EPA inspected Purdue's laboratories and noted that some laboratories had improper handling of HPLC waste materials. The EPA noted that all hazardous waste containers must be covered even as material is being accumulated in them. It was also brought to Purdue's attention that 0.005M Sulfuric Acid HPLC solution cannot be randomly dumped down the sink, and only solutions with a pH of 4.0 or greater can be dumped. Testing has shown that about three pellets of NaOH per liter must be dissolved to bring the solution to an acceptable pH range to dump down the sink. Organic HPLC solvents (including methanol and acetonitrile) must be collected and submitted to REM. Note: it is unclear if Purdue will be fined for the August 2008 violation.

Bottom line: the EPA could audit ChE at any time. We all need to work to improve and maintain ChE safety.

Thank you.

Linda

Linda S. Davis
Industrial Education Director
School of Chemical Engineering
Purdue University
480 Stadium Mall Dr.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2100
Phone: (765)496-1710
lsdavis@purdue.edu