Saint Louis University Laboratory Inspections

Why Are Inspections Important?

- Ensure a safe work environment for SLU employees, students, and visitors
- Determine compliance with federal, state, and local regulations
 - o OSHA, NIOSH, EPA, MoDNR, CDC, USDA, NRC and others
- Identify hazards and areas of concern before incidents occur
- Identify corrective actions
- Identify best practices to address concerns
- Lab personnel are encouraged to proactively perform self-inspections

Types of Laboratory Inspections

Inspection	Relevant Laboratories	Frequency
Environmental Safety	All laboratories.	Annually
Biological Safety	Labs using biological agents (BSL-2 agents or higher, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules (rsNA), or toxins).	Annually
Radiation Safety	Laboratories approved for radioactive materials use.	Quarterly

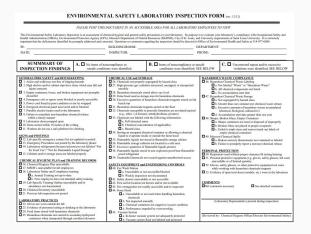
General Safety

All inspections look for common general safety items to ensure safe work practices.

- Training
 - Lab Safety, Lab-Specific (general and biosafety), Radiation Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Engineering controls
 - Biological safety cabinets, fume hoods, compressed gas restraints
- Eyewashes

Environmental Safety Laboratory Inspections

- Performed annually.
- Covers general safety, chemical safety, and hazardous waste.
- Laboratories are expected to make corrections to compliance issues noted during the inspection.



Environmental Safety Laboratory Inspection Form

GENERAL/FIRE SAFETY and HOUSEKEEPING	CHEMICAL USE and STORAGE	HAZARDOUS WASTE COMPLIANCE
 1. Aisles and walkways not free of tripping hazards 	26. Chemicals not properly segregated by hazard class	■ 46. Hazardous Chemical Waste Labeling
2. High shelves and/or cabinet tops have items which may fall and	27. High-pressure gas cylinders unsecured, uncapped, or transported	☐ a. Not labeled "Waste" or "Hazardous Waste"
injure someone	unsafely	■ b. All chemical components not listed
☐ 3. Empty containers, boxes, and broken equipment not promptly	■ 28. Hazardous chemicals stored above eye level	c. No accumulation start date
discarded	29. Fume hood used as storage area for hazardous chemicals	□ 47. Hazardous Chemical Waste Storage
4. Emergency exit or egress route blocked or poorly accessible	30. Excessive quantities of hazardous chemicals/reagents stored on lab	a. Not segregated by hazard class
5. Power cord found in poor condition or not tie wrapped	bench top	■ b. Greater than one container per chemical waste stream
6. Energized electrical panel uncovered and/or blocked	31. Hazardous chemicals/reagents stored on the floor	c. Excessive amounts of hazardous wastes accumulated
7. Portable electric heater used in the laboratory	32. Chemicals susceptible to peroxide formation are not dated/expired	(chemical, biological, radioactive)
8. Failure to remediate non-hazardous chemical release	(e.g., ether, 1,4 dioxane, tetrahydrofuran, picrates)	☐ d. Accumulation start date greater than one year
within a timely manner	33. Chemicals not labeled with the following information:	■ 48. Sharps, Broken Glass, Empty Containers:
 9. Laboratory doors propped open 	a. Full chemical name	a. Sharps containers not used or disposed of improperly
☐ 10. Items stored within 18 inches of the ceiling	■ b. Chemical concentration (if applicable)	■ b. Broken Glass not placed in proper receptacle
☐ 11. Workers do not use a safe platform for climbing	☐ c. Hazard class	c. Failed to triple rinse and remove/mark out labels of
THE CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACT	■ 34. Storing an uncapped chemical container or allowing a chemical	empty chemical containers
SIGNS and POSTINGS	liquid to evaporate inside or outside the fume hood	☐ 49. Mercury/Chemical Spills:
12. Lab specific emergency contact list not updated or posted	■ 35. Flammable liquids not stored in flammable storage cabinet	a. Broken mercury thermometer not contained or labeled
■ 13. Emergency Procedures not posted by the laboratory phone	■ 36. Flammable storage cabinets not located in a safe area	■ b. Failure to promptly report a mercury/chemical release
☐ 14. Laboratory refrigerators/freezers/microwaves not labeled "Not	☐ 37. Excessive quantities of flammable liquids present	
for Food Use"/ "Not for Flammable Liquid Storage"	■ 38. Flammable liquids stored in non-explosion-proof/non-flammable-	PERSONAL PROTECTION
■ 15. Cabinets and/or storage areas not labeled properly	proof refrigerator	☐ 50. Respirators used without proper clearance/fit testing/training
CHEMICAL HYGIENE PLAN and TRAINING RECORDS	☐ 39. Unattended chemicals not secured against unauthorized access	☐ 51. Personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, safety glasses, lab coat) unavailable or of limited quantity
☐ 16. Chemical Hygiene Plan unavailable	SAFETY EQUIPMENT and ENGINEERING CONTROLS	52. Gloves, safety glasses, or other protective equipment not worn
☐ 17. MSDS's unavailable for lab employees	□ 40. Eve Wash Station	while working with hazardous chemicals/reagents
☐ 18. Laboratory Safety and Compliance training	a. Unavailable or not accessible/blocked	□ 53. Evidence of open toed shoes (sandals, etc.) worn in the laboratory
a. Annual Training not up-to-date	□ b. Weekly inspection not documented	33. Evidence of open foed shoes (sandars, etc.) worn in the laboratory
□ b. New employees have not attended safety training	☐ 41. Safety shower unavailable or not accessible	
☐ 19. Lab Specific Training Outline unavailable and/or	41. Safety shower unavailable of not accessible 42. First aid kit location not known and/or not available	COMMENTS
attendance not documented	□ 43. Fire extinguisher not readily accessible and/or inspected	□NO comments necessary □ See attached comments
□ 20. Chemical Inventory unavailable	44. Fume Hood	
21. Previous lab inspection not posted	a. Unavailable or not used when handling hazardous	
7 (A 10 (A 10) - 1 (A 10) (A 10) (A 10) (A 10) (A 10) (A 10)	chemicals	
LABORATORY PRACTICES	■ b. Not inspected annually	(Laboratory Representative present during inspection)
22. Gloves are worn outside the lab	c. Chemical containers not capped or in poor condition	THE CONTRACTOR OF COMMENT OF THE PARTY OF TH
23. Evidence of personnel eating or drinking in the laboratory	□ d. Performance impeded by overcrowding	
24. Food items stored with hazardous chemicals	☐ 45. Vacuum System	
25. Hazardous chemicals not carried in secondary/spill-proof	a. In-house vacuum system not adequately protected	(Reviewed by: Chemical Hygiene Officer/Director Environmental Safety)
containers when transported through corridors/elevators	□ b. Vacuum system flask not labeled and protected	

Most Common Areas of Noncompliance

- 1. Chemicals not labeled with the full chemical name, concentration and/or hazard class.
- 2. Laboratory refrigerators/freezers/microwaves not labeled "Not for Food Use" & "Not for Flammable Liquid Storage".
- 3. Flammable liquids stored in non-explosion-proof/ non-flammable-proof refrigerators.
- 4. Chemicals not properly segregated by hazard class.
- 5. Vacuum systems not adequately protected with in-line filters.



Environmental Safety Highlights

Broken glass boxes are designed for disposal of clean broken glass, glass bottles that have been tripled rinsed and other sharp glass that is not contaminated. Please triple rinse glassware and mark out or remove labels before disposal in the broken glass box.

All peroxide-forming chemicals (diethyl ether, picric acid, tetrahydrofuran, etc.) must be dated when received and dated when opened. Please do not open if expired or crystals have formed inside the bottle. Request a <u>chemical waste pickup</u>.

Food and drinks are not allowed inside the laboratory. Each lab should have a designated area to ensure food and drink are not used or stored in the lab.

Minors (< 18 yrs old) are not allowed to access or work in the laboratory without official approval. Consult the EHS Minors in Labs Policy.

Biosafety Inspections

- Performed annually and anytime lab locations or work practices change.
- Required for Institutional Biosafety Committee Protocol approval.
- Typically not announced but are usually performed the same month every year.



Biosafety Inspection Form

Classification of Laboratory Space					
Biological research (e.g. rDNA) is approved by IBC and is current.					
2. Infectious Material:					
3. Human Derived Material:					
A Classification of December 2 Diels Course					
4. Classification of Research □ Risk Group 1 □ Risk Group 2					
Biosafety Level 1 Practices					
5. Lab supervisor controls access to the laboratory					
6. Pest Control Policy is available and no pest management problems observed					
7. Laboratory has a sink for hand washing					
8. Persons wash their hands after working with samples and before leaving the lab					
9. No Evidence of Eating, drinking, and storing food for consumption					
10. Mechanical pipetting devices are always used, No Mouth Pippetting					
11. Needles are never bent, broken, recapped or reused before disposal					
12. Used needles, syringes, and other sharps placed in a puncture-resistant container					
13. Vacuum lines are protected with HEPA filters, or their equivalent					
14. All procedures are performed to minimize the creation of splashes and/or aerosols					
15. Work surfaces are decontaminated after completion of work or after any spill					
16. Biological waste (e.g. cultures, stocks) are properly decontaminated before disposal					
17. Lab designed so that it can be easily cleaned (i.e. no carpet, cloth furniture, etc.)					
18. Protective eyewear worn when potential to create splashes of microorganisms					
19. Bench tops are impervious to water and resistant to heat and other chemicals					
20. Lab windows that open to the exterior are fitted with screens					
21. Housekeeping is appropriate and lab is maintained in a clean/sanitary condition					
22. Biohazard signage is posted at the lab entrance when infectious agents are present					
23. Gloves are worn to protect hands from exposure to hazardous materials					

Safety Equipment - Primary Barriers & PPE 24. Protective clothing (i.e. lab coat) worn to prevent contamination of personal clothing 25. Eyewash station is readily available 26. All procedures that may generate aerosols are conducted in containment (e.g. BSC) **Biosafety Level 2 Practices** 27. Biosafety Manual: □Spill Procedure □Lab Specific Training/Records □ BBP Training □ Shippers Training □EHS Training records 28. All persons entering lab are advised of potential hazards & entry/exit requirements 29. Lab equipment is routinely decontaminated, including after spills or splashes 30. No evidence of non research related Animals or Plants in the lab 31. BSCs located away from doors, heavily traveled areas, and other airflow disruptions 32. BSCs have been certified within the last year (annual certification) 33. Samples are placed in durable, leak proof container during storage and transport 34. Plasticware is substituted for glass whenever possible 35. All personnel have been offered Hepatitis B vaccination or signed declination form 36. Personnel are familiar with post-exposure evaluation and follow-up

37. Engineering and work practice controls are used to reduce the risk of exposure

Common Areas of Noncompliance

- Biological Safety Cabinet not certified within 12 months.
- Eyewash not flushed weekly and recorded.
- Vacuum flasks missing HEPA filters between flask and vacuum source.
- Not wearing appropriate PPE according to biosafety level and eIBC protocol.
- Incorrect disposal of biological waste.
- Sharps not handled/stored/disposed of properly.
- Plants in labs.

Biosafety Inspection Highlights

 Lab-specific biosafety training records for all personnel should be maintained in the research space.

Training records should be documented on the Laboratory
 Training Record spreadsheet to be attached to the eIBC

protocol.

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LABORATORY TRAINING RECORD								
Principle Investigator(s):			IBC Protocol(s)#:		Location:			
Name	SLU Username	Lab Specific Biosafety Training Date	General Lab Safety Training Date (Annual)	Blood Borne Pathogen Training Date (Annual)	Shipper's Training Date (Biannual)	BSL-3 Training Date (Yearly)	ABSL-3 Training Date (Annually)	Select Agent Trainin Date (Yearly)
	_							

This document is to be retained by the Principal Investigator/L	ab Group and available to EHS Staff for	review.
Training dates should be added to the Lab Training Form, whic	th must be attached to the eIBC protocol	(s).
Principal Investigator Name(s)/Lab Group:		
Research Location(s):		
Researcher Name:		
Researcher Responsibilit		Initia
I agree to read all the eIBC Protocols on which I am listed as per		Initia
 I agree to read all the eIBC Protocols on which I am listed as per materials in their entirety as they become available (e.g., ameni 		
that I can log into protocols at: http://eibc.slu.edu	uments and renewars). I acknowledge	
I further agree to complete all training required for handling big	Notical agents	
Laboratory Safety & Compliance Training (every 12 months)	nogram against	
Bloodborne Pathogen Training (every 12 months for required	(personnel)	
. Shipper's Training (every 24 months for those involved in bio		
BSL-3/Select Agent Training (each calendar year for required)		
3. I understand the importance of following all the specifications of	of each eiBC Protocol so that all personnel	
will be adequately protected from the possibility of contact with	h the biological agent(s).	
4. I understand that signs and symptoms of an exposure to each b		
applicable eIBC Protocol. I agree to immediately report any pot		
5. I agree to utilize the required personal protective equipment (P	Pt) detailed in each eIBC Protocol specific	
to the biological agent(s) that I work with.		
6. I understand the procedures for handling biological spills and re		
spill/release or other incident involving biological agents to my : Officer (314-977-6888)	supervisor and the Biological Safety	
7. I agree to strictly follow the decontamination methods specified	d in the applicable offic Protocolic)	
8. I had the opportunity to ask the named PI questions and have n		
e. These one opportunity to ask the names in questions and have in	eccinco anomes to as my questions.	
General Biological Spill Protocol: It is understood that the follow be observed in any laboratory or other research facility in which a bi • Wear gloves and a lab coat. If splashing is possible, also we and a surgical mask.	iological agent or toxin has been spilled or re arr eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, o	leased.
 Use forceps to pick up broken glass and discard into a SHAR 	IPS container.	
 Cover spilled material with paper towels. 	when the property of	67.1
 Carefully pour appropriate diluted disinfectant (stated in ea the paper towels in sufficient quantity to ensure effective in 		
the spill to the inside. • Allow a 20-minute contact period.		
 Allow a 20-minute contact period. Pick-up paper towels and dispose in biohazard waste contain 	nerr	
Re-wipe spill area with properly diluted disinfectant.		
Place all contaminated materials, including PPE, into biohad	rand warte containers	
Wash hands with soap and water.	are more comments.	
Important for ABSL-3 and BSL-3 Labs: Do not attempt to clean u		
Important for ABSL-3 and BSL-3 Labs: Do not attempt to clean use contact DPS at 314-977-3000 to report the spill.	up spills in these labs. Exit lab as per protoc	ol and

Autoclave Inspections

- Autoclave function must be validated weekly (spore tests) when the autoclave is used to decontaminate waste.
- Autoclave records are checked annually.



000 EF							
Date:							
Autoclave	Location:						
Submitted	Ву:						-8
Items Auto	claved:						
Wa	ter Bottles		Tray				
Cag	je		Test Pack				
Har	d Case		Other (sp	ecify) _			
	nperature: ilization Time: _	°F		:	-	i.	
	nperature: ilization Time: _	°F	Pressure _ min. Di	ry Time:	mir n		
Ster	nperature: ilization Time: _	°F	Pressure _ min. Di	ry Time:	mir		
Ster	nperature: ilization Time: _ Sample ID	°F Indica Circle	Pressure _ min. Di tor Reade Results	ry Time:	n Sample ID	Circle	
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Ster Results 7 8	nperature: ilization Time: _ Sample ID	Indica Circle Pos Pos	Pressure _min. Di itor Reade Results Neg	ry Time: r Locatio	n Sample ID	Circle Pos Pos	Neg Neg
Ster Results 7	pperature: ilization Time: _ Sample ID	Indica Circle Pos Pos Pos	Pressure _ min. Di tor Reade Results Neg Neg Neg	ry Time: r Location 10 11 12	n Sample ID	<u>Circle</u> Pos	
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Results 7 8 9	pperature: ilization Time: _ Sample ID	Indica Circle Pos Pos Pos Cator Place	Pressure _ min. Di itor Reade Results Neg Neg Neg Neg aced In Re	ry Time: r Location 10 11 12 eader:	n Sample ID	Circle Pos Pos Pos Pos	Neg Neg
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Radiation Safety Inspections

Training: All personnel working with radioactive materials must have completed the Radiation Safety Orientation and passed the associated test

Radionuclide Shipment Log (Green Sheet): must be completed as required including surveys and inventory log

PPE: Appropriate PPE must be worn for the radioactive materials being used. Typically, this includes lab coat, gloves, protective eyewear, and dosimeters if required

Surveys: Survey meter readings (unless H-3 use only, which is not detectable with meter) and wipe tests must be documented weekly. Surveys of personnel and nearby area required following all procedures involving radioactive materials (no documentation required)

Inventory: A quarterly physical inventory of all radionuclides must be completed. This includes all radioactive materials on hand, whether in stock vials, experiments, or waste. The online Radiation Safety database must be updated by the Permit Holder/lab following the inventory

Security: Radionuclides must be secured against unauthorized access or removal at all times

Food and Drink: No food and drink is allowed in any laboratory where radioactive materials are used or stored



Radiation Safety Inspection Form

POSTING & RECORDS ACCESSIBILITY	SAFETY	Y PRACTICES, SURVEYS & SUPPLIES	35. Radionuclides not secured against unauthorized access or
1. NRC-3 form not posted. 2. Radioactive materials sign not posted 3. Radiation area sign not posted 4. High radiation area sign not posted 5. Airborne radioactivity area sign not posted 6. Low Level Exposure Zone (>0.2 mr/hr) not portion of the control of the	22.	Staff do not adequately survey during & after each use of radionuclides Area survey documentation lacking (specify dates of missing surveys in comments section): A. 1 weekly survey B. 2 weekly surveys C. 3 or more weekly/1 or more monthly surveys D. survey meter readings not documented E. Other; specify in comments section.	removal
10. Previous RSO inspection not logged or posted 11. Radiation Safety Manual or required records in	accessible 23 24.	Appropriate survey instrument not used or unavailable Survey instrument not operational, has depleted batteries, or lacks check source	38. Improper packaging/labeling of radioactive waste 39. Improper segregation of radioactive waste
TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (see comments for specifica 12. Personnel working with RAM have not attended Safety Orientation Course and passed exam 13. Personnel have not attended the annual refresh 14. Permit Holder has not provided/certified labor	d Radiation 26.	Survey instrument calibration not current within 1 year; comments: Evidence of personnel eating or drinking in areas designated for radioactive materials use or storage Staff not wearing gloves, lab coat, or other protective clothing	40. Improper disposal of radioactive waste INTERNAL & EXTERNAL DOSIMETRY 41. Personnel bioassay not submitted as required42. Personnel dosimeter (badge) not timely returned; specify individual(s):
instruction to workers RADIONUCLIDE RECEIPT, INVENTORY & TRAN	28.	working with radionuclides	43. Location of personnel exposure records unknown 44. Staff not wearing required dosimeter while handling
15. Radionuclide Shipment Receipt Log incomple A. \(\leq 10\% \) of shipments received B. \(\leq 25\% \) of shipments received C. \(> 25\% \) of shipments received D. \(\text{other, see comments} \)	31.	Laboratory surfaces (bench tops, etc.) inadequately covered Fume hood, glove box, or charcoal filtered mini-hood not used as required Essential spill response supplies not maintained within laboratory (see itemized list below): absorbent pads absorbent towels	radionuclides 45. Staff wearing dosimeter assigned to another person 46. Dosimeter (badge) stored in radiation work/storage area OTHER ITEMS OF NONCOMPLIANCE
16. Inventory Log - Radionuclide Stock Vial Invention incomplete A. \(\leq 10\% \) of shipments received B. \(\leq 25\% \) of shipments received C. \(> 25\% \) of shipments received D. other; see comments	tory Ledger	decontaminant solution mild hand soap (e.g., Joy) scouring pads soft brush (for skin) scrub brush shoe covers (disposable) heavy duty plastic bags gloves (disposable) tape ("Caution RAM") spare clothing/shoes	47
 17. Online radionuclide inventory database not up 18. Radionuclide shipment received directly; RSO 19. Radioactive material provided to unauthorized 20. Unauthorized removal of RAM from SLU/affi 	not notified staff 32.	NUCLIDE USE & STORAGE Use or storage of radionuclides in an unauthorized area Radionuclides improperly stored or inadequately shielded	(Signature of Laboratory Inspector)
20. Chaudionzed femoval of Kenyi Holli SEO/alli		Unmarked and unattended labware containing radionuclides	(Signature of Laboratory Staff Member)

Summary

Contact ehs@slu.edu for any questions regarding inspections.

Please complete the Safety Awareness Quiz on Laboratory Inspections by September 30th, 2023.