The Facts

OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Eye & Face Protection

- Safety glasses must be worn by everyone, including visitors, who enter an area where chemicals are stored, handled, or used.
- All eye and face protection must meet ANSI Z87.1 requirements.
- Look for a Z87.1 stamp on eye & face protection to ensure that they are OSHA approved.
- Safety glasses/goggles must be worn over prescription glasses; prescription glasses do not provide adequate protection.

Hearing Protection

- If exposed to a noisy environment, or if you feel ear plugs/muffs are necessary, contact OES.
- OES provides training, surveys, and PPE recommendations for high hazard noise areas.
- If enrolled in the Hearing Conservation Program, annual hearing testing is required for employees.
- If currently wearing ear protection & not enrolled in the Hearing Conservation Program, please contact OES.

Foot Protection

- If currently working in an environment that potentially has the danger of foot injuries, this includes falling/rolling objects, objects piercing the sole, or potential electrical hazards, please contact OES for an assessment.

Hand Protection

- For more information about best practices for hand protection, read Hand Protection Fact Sheet, or contact OES.

Respiratory Protection

If using a dust mask voluntarily please complete the Voluntary **Use Form (Appendix D)** and submit a copy to OES.

- OES can determine if respiratory or hearing protection is needed. Contact us for a hazard assessment.
- Anyone whose work may require the use of a respirator must follow the procedures outlined in the University's Respirator Protection Program. These include:
  - Hazard Evaluation
  - Respirator Selection
  - Medical Surveillance
  - Respiratory Training
  - Fit Testing

Lab Coats

- Must be worn in areas where chemicals are handled or used.
- Front opening laboratory coats should always be worn closed.
- Remove immediately when contaminated.
- **Do not wash lab coats at home**, Contact DSC for department specific laundry procedures.
- Select lab coat fabric based on lab activities:
  - Cotton/Flame Retardant lab coats provide protection when working with open flames/flammable chemicals.
  - Polyester blends provide more chemical resistance but can melt onto skin if they catch on fire.

Lab Coat Selection Article: The Synergist

Other Resources

Lab Safety Manual

Glove Compatibility App
Select "Permeation & Degradation Database"

Clemson OES Website

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