

UAB SAFETY SHORT

Laboratory Safety Program Updates: Chemical Inventory and SOP Requirements

As part of our continued efforts to support laboratories in maintaining effective, accurate, and sustainable safety practices, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) is implementing several updates to our laboratory safety inspection process and related documentation.

Changes to Annual Chemical Inventory Reconciliation Requirements

In recognition of the efforts made by laboratories to maintain accurate chemical inventories, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) is updating the annual chemical inventory reconciliation process, effective immediately.

During Laboratory Safety Reviews, EH&S will assess inventory compliance using the following criteria:

Is the laboratory actively maintaining its chemical inventory in EHSA?

EH&S personnel will verify this by:

- Spot-checking chemicals present in the laboratory against the inventory in EHSA.
- Reviewing recent inventory updates and activity within EHSA.

If the laboratory is actively maintaining its inventory:

- The laboratory will be considered compliant with inventory requirements.
- No annual inventory reconciliation will be required.

If the laboratory is not actively maintaining its inventory:

- A deficiency will be noted in the inspection report.
- A full inventory reconciliation must be completed within the established corrective action timeframe.

Upcoming Enhancements to Chemical SOP Requirements

EH&S is also introducing improvements to streamline and strengthen Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) resources for chemical use.

Moving forward, rather than requiring laboratories to develop SOPs for individual chemicals, EH&S will provide standardized SOPs based on chemical classes. The only exception will be certain highly hazardous chemicals, such as hydrofluoric acid (HF), dichloromethane (DCM), and other similarly high-risk substances, for which lab-specific SOPs may still be required.

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This enhancement is designed to provide laboratories with clearer, more consistent guidance while supporting safe and effective chemical handling practices.

EH&S is actively developing these chemical class SOPs and is working diligently to make them available to laboratories as soon as possible. Additional information and implementation timelines will be shared once finalized.

If you have any questions regarding chemical inventory requirements, EHSA inventory management, or SOP requirements, please contact Environmental Health & Safety.