

Laboratory Hazardous Waste Management Procedures

The District of Columbia has recently modified its hazardous waste management regulations codified in Chapters 42 and 43, Title 20 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR). As a result, Georgetown University is required to examine and modify the manner in which it currently manages laboratory hazardous waste. The following represents procedures for the appropriate management of hazardous waste generated in the laboratory.

- The area selected for temporary storage of containers of hazardous waste must be labeled with a “Hazardous Waste Storage Area” sign. Safety and Environmental Management (SEM) will provide “Hazardous Waste Storage Area” signs. The containers must be placed in secondary containment free from gaps or cracks and sufficiently impervious to contain leaks of stored material.
- All containers used to collect hazardous waste must be affixed with a “Hazardous Waste” label. SEM will provide “Hazardous Waste” labels. It is required that each section of the label be completed including the accumulation start date.
- All containers must be removed for proper disposal by SEM within 60 days from the accumulation start date.
- Additionally, a visual inspection of the condition of the containers in the Hazardous Waste Storage Area must be performed weekly. The results of the weekly inspection must be noted in the “Weekly Container Integrity Inspection” form. SEM will provide “Weekly Container Integrity Inspection” forms. During the inspection attention must be paid to the following issues:
 - Containers appear to be in good condition and are not leaking.
 - Hazardous waste is stored in containers made of compatible materials.
 - Incompatible hazardous wastes are not stored in the same container.
 - Incompatible hazardous wastes stored in separate bottles should not be placed in the same secondary containment.
 - All containers except those in use are closed.
 - All containers have the “Hazardous Waste” label affixed and are accurately labeled.

If there is a potential for a leak or containers have been stored longer than the 60 day period, contact GU Safety and Environmental Management (SEM) at (202) 687-6913 or (202) 687-7409. Copies of the Hazardous Waste Storage Area sign, Hazardous Waste label, and Weekly Container Integrity Inspection form may be requested from SEM at (202) 687-6913.

A copy of the Weekly Container Integrity Inspection form must be sent or faxed to SEM at (202) 687-9229 at the beginning of each month.