

AgriLife Laboratory Safety Inspections – Common Deficiencies

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Extension cords used as permanent wiring
- Extension cords/electrical cords cracked, broken insulation, missing ground
- Multiple adapters without GFI/GFCI breaker in use
- Power strips connected in series (daisy chaining)
- Panel access obstructed
- Non-GFI receptacle within 6' of wet area

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

- Evacuation/exit route obstructed
- Lab door blocked open

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- Glass items on floor
- Unprotected glassware under vacuum pressure.

SAFE LAB PRACTICES

- Evidence of eating and drinking in the lab
- Food/drink stored in refrigerator/freezer
- Unsecured or recapped sharps

CHEMICAL STORAGE

- Chemicals not being stored according to hazard classification
- Chloroform being stored beyond use/disposal timelines
- Chemicals stored with food or drink
- Flammables stored in domestic refrigerator/freezer or walk-in cooler
- Peroxide forming chemicals being stored beyond use/disposal timelines
- Quantity of flammable liquids exceeds the maximum allowed for lab

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Eyewash station/Safety shower access obstructed
- Eyewash station/Safety shower inspection required

FUME HOOD/BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET

- BSC certification out of date
- Fume hood certification out of date

WARNING SIGNS/LABELS

- Emergency Contact Information not posted
- Missing or deteriorated label on primary container

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Uncapped waste
- Improper labeling of hazardous waste (label container as “Hazardous Waste” and list contents)

INSPECTIONS

- Fire extinguishers
- Emergency safety showers
- Eyewash stations
- Fume hood
- Biological Safety Cabinets
- Autoclaves
- Ovens/Incubators

Areas of Concern

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- Improperly secured compressed gas cylinders
- Tripping hazards present

SAFE LAB PRACTICES

- Labels on empty bottles not properly defaced

CHEMICAL STORAGE

- Chemicals not accurately labeled
- Chemicals not appropriately dated (date received and date opened)
- Chemicals stored above eye level
- Acetic Acid should be stored with flammables

- Improper accumulation of chemicals

FUME HOOD/BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET

- Items stored on fume hood control knobs

WARNING SIGNS/LABELS

- Domestic refrigerator/freezer not properly labeled as “Not Safe for Flammable Storage” and/or “Lab Use Only”
- Domestic refrigerator/freezer not properly labeled as “Food Only”
- Microwave not labeled as “Lab Use Only” or “Food Only”