The purpose of this newsletter is to keep radioactive material users at UC Irvine informed regarding campus radiation safety policies and procedures including tips to improve safety. Visit the EH&S website (www.ehs.uci.edu) under “Radiation & Laser Safety” for previous issues of this newsletter and more information on radiation safety.

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**CiBR-Trac**

*Chemical Inventory, Biological & Radio-isotope Tracking system*

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**RADIOISOTOPE INVENTORY UPDATE NEARLY DUE**

EH&S requires that your radioisotope inventory in the online CiBR-Trac system be updated at least every 6 months -- preferably every January and July since EH&S sends out email reminders those months to PIs authorized to receive radioactive material. Thus, an inventory update for your lab is likely to be coming due very soon.

The web address for the CiBR-Trac system is [http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp](http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp). There is also a link to CiBR-Trac at the upper right corner on the main EH&S webpage (www.ehs.uci.edu). If your lab is not updating your inventory on the January/July schedule, it is advisable that you make entries on either a lab or a personal calendar to remind you when the updates are due.

There is no need to perform radioactive decay corrections when you update your inventory – the CiBR-Trac program does that automatically when you update the inventory date, save the inventory changes, and print the inventory. **Be sure to print a copy of the updated inventory for your radiation safety records!** If you have any problems using the CiBR-Trac inventory system, please contact EH&S Radiation Safety staff at 949-824-6200.
DON'T PLACE RADIOACTIVE WASTE INTO THE REGULAR TRASH!

There have been several cases recently where persons in labs have placed contaminated disposable gloves, bench paper, or other contaminated items into regular trash containers. **This is strictly prohibited, and if this issue is noted during an EH&S radiation safety survey, it is considered to be a serious item of noncompliance!**

Things such as gloves and bench paper used when handling radioisotopes can be assumed to be at least a little contaminated and should be disposed of in a radioactive waste box.

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MISDIRECTED RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL PACKAGES

All radioactive material packages must be sent to EH&S for campus inventory logging and distribution to labs on campus. The mailing address for all such packages is below:

UC Irvine
EH&S/Radiation Safety
Attention: Name of PI
4600 Health Sciences Road
Irvine, CA 92697-2725

Several times per year EH&S discovers that radioactive material packages were delivered directly to labs on campus. This occurs due to a mistake by a departmental administrator during the ordering process, a mistake by UCI Purchasing (*this is very rare*), or a mistake in delivery by the FedEx driver. **If a package is delivered directly to your lab, please let EH&S Radiation Safety know about this immediately (949-824-6200) and we will visit your lab to log in the package and check it for contamination.**

**Note:** Packages containing radioisotopes with very short half-lives (no more than 24 hours; F-18, I-123, and Tc-99m are examples) may be delivered directly to labs since the delay in having EH&S process the packages would allow too much time for decay of the radioisotopes. EH&S does not log these into inventory records since they completely decay away in about one week or less.
MEMORABLE QUOTE

"Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought".

Albert Szent-Györgi (1893-1986) U.S. Biochemist

RADIATION SAFETY TRAINING FORMS

Unfortunately, it is not unusual for persons taking the online Radiation Safety Part I course (at www.uclc.uci.edu) to neglect to return to EH&S Radiation Safety the training forms referred to in the course and provided as attachments to the course. Without the needed forms, Radiation Safety will not know that you have successfully completed the course, and we have no idea to what PI’s Radiation Use Authorization we need to add your name to as an authorized, trained user. The required forms are below:

http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/radiation/forms/trainexp0405.pdf (Statement of Training & Experience -- men and women complete this form)

http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/radiation/Prenatal%20Policy%2003051.pdf (women only -- Prenatal Policy, read only)

http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/radiation/Prenatal1.pdf (women only -- Prenatal signature form)

These forms can be faxed to 949-824-8539. Or they can be scanned and sent to EH&S as an email attachment (rcmannix@uci.edu, achung1@uci.edu), or they can be sent to EH&S in the campus mail (EH&S, Radiation Safety, Zot 2725.)
LABCOATS MUST BE WORN!

People in several UCI labs have gotten out of the habit of wearing labcoats when they handle unsealed radioisotopes such as in solutions containing H-3, S-35, P-32, etc. (People handling sealed sources only are excluded from this requirement.). Labcoats are intended to protect your arms, upper body, and upper legs from spilled/splattered radioisotope, and to ensure that you don’t transfer radioactive contamination to your car or your home since labcoats need to be left in the lab after experiments.

If discovered by EH&S, the failure of personnel handling radioisotopes to wear labcoats is a serious item of noncompliance on a radiation safety survey report, and perhaps grounds for suspending a PI’s Radiation Use Authorization if the problem is found repeatedly.

It is best to wear labcoats which extend at least down to your mid-thigh area, but ideally all the way to your knees. The short waist-length doctor-type labcoats are discouraged since they don’t protect the area immediately below your waist from splattered radioisotopes.

Be sure to button up your labcoat as unbuttoned coats only protect your arms and shoulders!

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If you have any questions about radiation safety, please contact EH&S at 949-824-6200. We will be happy to assist you with any radiation safety-related matter!