

Standard Operating Procedure

Irritants

Hazard Description: Chemical irritants are materials that cause reversible inflammation or irritation to a body surface, including eyes, respiratory tract, skin or mucous membranes, upon contact. Primary irritants exert no systemic toxic action. The degree of irritation depends on the chemical concentration, duration of contact, and personal factors (health status, sensitization). Be aware that some irritants are sensitizers or have delayed symptoms. Sensitizers are chemicals that can cause an allergic reaction upon repeat low level exposures. Breathing chemical irritant gases can also cause the buildup of fluid in the lungs or can interfere with the exchange of oxygen.

Labeling: Labeling must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Chemical Hygiene Plan. Irritants have the following GHS pictogram:



Storage: Storage of irritants must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Chemical Hygiene Plan.

Handling: In addition to the requirements outlined in the Chemical Hygiene Plan the following should be considered when handling irritants:

- Before handling an irritant, understand the irritants symptoms and routes of exposure.
- Immediately close all containers of irritants chemicals after use.
- Fume hoods must be used if there is an inhalation hazard present.
- Use disposable work surface covers (bench protectors) in areas where irritant chemicals are handled to prevent contamination surface.
- Do not dispense volatile irritant chemicals directly onto a laboratory balance in the general lab space. Instead, use sealable pre-tared container inside fume hood, then take the sealed container to the balance. Make all adjustments inside a fume hood.

Personal Protective Equipment: Reference SDS.

Spill and Decontamination: Reference SDS.