

Clean Areas in Research Labs (Non-Clinical) Program

Responsible Administrator: Assistant Director Research Safety and EH&S School Coordinators
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1. Program Description

Eating, drinking, food storage, application of cosmetics, and handling of contact lenses in research laboratories is permitted only in approved, posted “Clean Areas.”

2. Scope:

This program applies to Clean Areas at UCI main campus including research laboratories located at the Medical Center in Orange.

3. Definitions

- **Area:** A space within a room.
- **Clean Area:** An area within a lab room approved by EH&S as safe for the storage and consumption of food and beverage.
- **Competent Safety Professionals for this purpose include** the Radiation Safety Officer, Chemical Hygiene Officer, Biosafety Officer, UCIMC Safety Officer, EH&S Coordinators, CIH, CSP, and appropriately trained EH&S Staff.
- **Hazardous Material:** Any substance posing a health hazard for which good hygiene, safe distance, and adequate shielding play important roles in controlling hazards. Primarily includes radioactive materials, chemicals, and biohazardous materials.
- **Room:** An area bounded on all sides, from floor to ceiling, by any combination of walls, windows, and doors.

4. Responsibilities

Campus Chancellor: has overall responsibility for compliance with health and safety requirements at all facilities and programs under her/his control.

Vice Chancellors/Directors/Deans/Departments Chairs: are responsible for communicating and promoting this program within their unit and enforcing the program in areas under their control.

Department Requirements: Each department may disseminate and enforce more stringent clean area requirements than those identified by the program.

Supervisors: are responsible for complying with this policy, ensuring their staff complies with this program.

Workers: are responsible for knowing the clean area requirements for areas in which they work or enter

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S): is responsible for providing interpretation and clarification regarding this program. EH&S will also provide consultation or perform an assessment and focused upon the adequacy of separation of the proposed Clean Area from areas in which hazardous materials are used and/or stored.

5. Program Components

Procedure for Designation and Maintenance of Clean Area:

- Remove and permanently exclude all of the following from the room in which the Clean Area will be established: Select Agents and all work requiring BSL3 practices (including adenoviral vector work). Ensure that the room has been adequately cleaned to neutralize surface contamination.
- Permanently prohibit overnight animal housing, bedding changing, and cage cleaning from the room.
- Remove and permanently exclude all activities related to preparation of agents for human administration from the room.
- Ensure that the radiation exposure rate in the Clean Area is < 0.05 mR/h.
- Relocate all hazardous materials use and storage from the Clean Area and maintain separation distance of five (5) feet from the area (except for mild cleansers normally found in household settings). Where an adequate separation of the Clean Area from hazardous operations is not possible, splash- guards of appropriate height can be used to achieve separation.
- Schedule a visit from EH&S to review the proposed placement of the Clean Area. An assessment by a Competent Safety Professional will be made. Consideration is focused upon the adequacy of separation of the proposed Clean Area from areas in which hazardous materials are used and/or stored.
 - For approval of new Clean Area, lab personnel must: Post an EH&S Clean Area sign in a prominent location within the Clean Area. All refrigerators, microwave ovens, trash cans therein also must be posted with Clean Area signs.
 - Agree to remove gloves and other potentially-contaminated protective attire and wash hands thoroughly prior to entering a Clean Area.
 - Agree to discard all food and beverage refuse in trashcans located within the Clean Area to demonstrate that adequate Clean Area separation is maintained.
 - Agree that when a hazardous condition, as described in items 1-5 above, is reintroduced into a Clean Area, the Clean Areas ceases to exist. This aspect is very strict for laboratory suites where multiple PIs share large rooms. Proper communication,

cooperation, and management of hazardous material locations are vital to prevent the loss of Clean Areas designation.

6. Reporting Requirements

Not applicable

7. References

National Research Council (US) Committee on Prudent Practices in the Laboratory. Prudent Practices in the Laboratory: Handling and Management of Chemical Hazards: Updated Version. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2011. 9, Laboratory Facilities. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK55867/>