Maximum Allowable Quantities is the amount of chemicals allowed in a defined area in a building. Buying chemicals in bulk may seem more efficient, however there are limits to the amount of flammable solvents we can store in research labs.

No more than 10 gallons of flammable solvents may be stored outside of flammable storage cabinets per a defined area according to the Fire Code and most labs have limited cabinet space. The typical 65” highly flammable storage cabinet is rated for 45 gallons, but cannot hold 5 gallon drums. The large size flammable storage cabinet (pictured) can hold 5-gallon drums but is only rated for 60 gallons.

Further, you cannot merely add more flammable storage cabinets to your lab as the Fire Code sets the Maximum Allowable Quantity. MAQ is the quantity of hazardous materials that can be stored and depends on hazard class, control areas, floor level, and building sprinklers.

Please only order the quantity of flammable solvents that can safely be stored in your research lab.

Contact EHS at (949) 824-6200 or safety@uci.edu for more information and questions on MAQs.