

How to determine if the OSHA Standard: Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories (29 CFR Part 1910.1450) Applies to your laboratory

According to the OSHA Standard, a laboratory is:

A facility where the “laboratory use of hazardous chemicals” occurs. It is a work place where relatively small quantities of hazardous chemicals are used on a non-production basis.

Answer the following questions to determine if this standard applies to your laboratory.

- Are you working with hazardous chemicals?

Hazardous Chemical means chemicals for which there is statistically significant evidence based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principles that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term “health hazard” includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic systems, and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes. (If it is unclear and you can’t find out whether a chemical should be considered hazardous, it would be best to answer “yes”.)

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| Yes | No |
| | |

- Are chemical manipulations carried out on a scale designed to be easily and safely manipulated by one person?

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|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
| | |

- Is the main focus of the laboratory to perform research?

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|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
| | |

- Is there potential for employee exposure to the hazardous chemicals?

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| Yes | No |
| | |

If you have answered “no” to ALL of the questions above, then the OSHA Standard for Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in the Laboratory does not apply. Contact your OSHA Coordinator or the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (2-1284) about other standards that will.

If you have answered “yes” to ANY of the questions above, then the OSHA Standard for Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories applies to you. The enclosed materials are tools to be used in the process of bringing your laboratory into compliance. (It’s not as hard as it sounds. Most of it is good laboratory practice and some common sense.) Contact your OSHA Coordinator or the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (2-1284) if your need further instructions.