Working safely with Cryogenic Liquids and Solids in Laboratories (add attached warning symbols)

Cryogenic liquids (such as liquid nitrogen) and solids (such as solid carbon dioxide, ‘dry / card ice’) are widely used throughout QMUL laboratories and are proven valuable tools for academic research and teaching. These substances have hazardous properties (i) they are extremely cold liquids or solids (ii) and evaporate or sublimate to produce large volumes of gas which deplete oxygen levels in an inadequately ventilated space. If handled, stored, transported or disposed of unsafely these substances can cause injury (cold burns, frostbite, hypothermia), ill health (via physical trauma) and in a worse-case scenario, fatalities (asphyxiation in an inadequately ventilated area).

It is important that all who handle these substances are aware of the hazardous properties, be trained and know how to handle these substances safely without causing harm to yourself and others.

In particular, do not travel with these substances in confined spaces (e.g. lifts), ensure you have warning alarms in place and evacuate area if they go off, and know what to do in an emergency – call for help QMUL emergency number 3333 (Never re-enter a inadequately ventilated space if cryogenic liquids or solids have been spilt or evaporated / sublimated into gas).

A new QMUL Policy, Arrangements and Guidance document has been approved after consultation with QMUL, this is now available on a specific topic page http://hsd.qmul.ac.uk/A-Z/cryogenicliquids/index.html. Consult with HSD and your local Safety Coordinator if you need further advice on working safely with these substances.

- Cryogenic Liquids Solids_QMUL HS Policy Arrangements Guidance
- First Aid Needs Assessment
- Working at Height in Laboratories_Guidance
- Procedure in the event of a contamination incident
- Containment Level 1_GMO and wild type organisms_Inspection Checklist_V2

DSE Assessments – My Safety.

Health and safety recently launched the new online DSE assessment tool ‘My Safety’. Emails have recently been sent to all QMUL staff. Email alerts will be sent to your email address from alert@qmul.oshens.com, please remember to check your Junk Email folder, if you have not received an email please contact the H&S helpdesk hs-helpdesk@qmul.ac.uk.

The system will ask you for your location, if this is not listed in the drop down menu please contact the H&S helpdesk with full details and we will add your location to the system.

Please note that, when you search for your line manager, you will need to type your line manager’s surname into the search box, then press the ‘Filter’ button with your mouse cursor, and then press select.

Remember if you are experiencing issues with your workstation, please provide as much information in the assessment as possible, this will enable H&S to follow up more effectively and provide you with a solution. (Email example below).

Forthcoming H&S Training

Click here for information on how to book and full course details.

GM and Biosafety for Clinical Trials Staff
8th February 2017; 14:00 - 16:00

IOSH Managing Safely (4 Day)
9/11/16 February / 2nd March 2017; 09:00 – 17:00

GM Risk Assessment and Notification
15th February 2017; 13:30 – 15:30

Fire Marshal Training
21st February 2017; 10:00 - 15:00

COSHH Risk Assessment in Laboratories
23rd February 2017; 10:00 – 13:00

Laboratory Safety for non-research staff
8th March 2017; 13:00 – 15:30

Fire Marshal Training
14th March 2017; 10:00 - 15:00

First Aid at work Level two
22nd March 2017; 09:00 – 17:00

IOSH Working Safely
4th April 2017; 09:00 – 17:00

Fieldwork Risk Assessment
11th April 2017; 09:00 – 12:00

Fire Marshal Training
11th April 2017; 11:00 - 15:00

Online Fire Awareness Training Module:

- The new online Fire Safety Awareness Training module is now available on QMPlus.
- When you reach the QMPlus homepage, type ‘Fire’ in the search box to locate the module.
- Please ensure that you enter the relevant enrolment code for your department (listed on QMPlus), this will be required only once.