EGC1 HAZMAT SCREENING

Applicants completing an eGC1 are asked questions about quantities of hazardous materials they intend to use in their research. EH&S reviews this information to determine whether the proposed lab space is suitable for this intended purpose.

SCREENING THRESHOLDS

Hazardous materials are classified according to the International Fire Code, which limits quantities of certain chemicals based on physical and health hazards. Quantity limits apply to each *control area*, which may be one or more floors, or an entire building.

When an eCG1 is submitted, EH&S checks existing quantities of hazardous materials in the respective control area to determine whether additional chemicals can be allowed in that area. Some control areas are already at capacity and cannot accept new chemical inventories. Quantities above the screening thresholds listed in the table below trigger review by EH&S.

Material and Class	Solid	Liquid	Gas
Explosive	*Any amount*		N/A
Flammable Gas (gaseous)	N/A	N/A	200 cf
Flammable Gas (liquefied)	N/A	5 gal	N/A
Flammable Liquids	N/A	20 gal	N/A
Oxidizing gases			200 cf
Pyrophoric	*Any amount*		
Unstable (Reactive) class 4	*Any amount*		
Unstable (Reactive) class 3	1 lb	1 lb	100 cf
Water Reactive class 3	1 lb	1 lb	N/A
Highly Toxic	1 lb	0.5 gal	*Any amount*
Toxic	5 lbs	20 gal	100 cf

Certain quantities of hazardous materials may require that research is conducted in a space designated as an "H" (hazardous) occupancy space, which may not be readily available or even possible in some UW research facilities.

Research involving chemicals above the screening threshold does not mean your research is in jeopardy; we will simply compare your chemical needs and the inventories of neighboring labs to ensure that each control area is operating within fire code limitations.

HAZARD CLASSIFICATIONS

To select the correct hazardous material classifications for your chemicals (from the *Materials and Class* column in the table), refer to the Fire Code classifications of Hazardous Materials on the EH&S website or view the Seattle Fire Code.

An easy way to determine the correct Fire Code classifications for your materials is by using MyChem, the University's chemical management system. If you have an existing inventory in MyChem, you can run reports to verify the correct classifications.

If you do not have a MyChem inventory related to the proposed research, contact EH&S at 206.616.5530 or email cochrd@uw.edu for assistance.

EXAMPLES OF HAZARD CLASSES FOR COMMON RESEARCH CHEMICALS

The following chemicals meet screening criteria:

- Sodium azide (highly toxic and unstable reactive)
- Sulfuric acid (water reactive and corrosive)
- Laboratory solvents such as methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol (flammable liquids)
- Oxygen and nitrous oxide (oxidizing gases)

For questions about hazardous materials thresholds, contact EH&S at 206.616.5530.