

October 14, 2014

CAMPUS LABORATORY RESEARCHERS

Re: Launch of Personal Protective Equipment Storeroom

We are pleased to finally announce the formal opening of the laboratory personal protective equipment (PPE) storeroom where individuals who work in campus research labs can obtain their free lab coats and safety eyewear – directions below. We apologize for the long delay in opening for business - unexpected delays in receiving PPE from UC Office of the President pushed back the opening date.

Obtaining Your Free PPE

Individuals who have not previously received their PPE can now do so via these steps:

1. Ask your PI/supervisor to add you into their *Laboratory Hazard Assessment Tool* (“LHAT”) account. They may have delegated that task to another individual.
2. Go to the LHAT: <https://ehs.ucop.edu/lhat/> Login using your UCSB NetID and password.
Complete the required steps:
 - a. Complete and certify the short training and quiz
 - b. Certify you’ve reviewed your lab’s hazard assessment
 - c. Print PPE voucher
3. Take your PPE voucher to the **graduate storeroom in the Chemistry building (bldg. 557), room 1432**. You will receive a fitted lab coat(s) and safety eyewear from Cabe Fletcher, or his staff.

Why Provide Free PPE and Require Documentation?

In April 2014 the [UC Personal Protective Equipment Policy](#) was launched system-wide. The policy is an effort to ensure that UC workers have appropriate PPE and that UC is in compliance with worker safety regulations, i.e. Cal-OSHA. In short, any employer is obligated to:

- Assess and document the hazards of their worker’s activities
- Provide appropriate PPE based on the assessment at no cost to the worker
- Provide documented training on proper PPE use and maintenance
- Provide a free method for worker’s to clean/sanitize their PPE

To meet these challenges, UC developed the LHAT and started a free [lab coat laundering service](#). Most of the campus lab community are already familiar with these. However, to meet the above requirements, it is important that *every* lab worker go through the LHAT process and not simply be handed an old lab coat and eyewear that are leftover around the lab. That process does *not* generate any of the above OSHA-satisfying documentation for that worker, nor ensure issuance of appropriate and well-fitted PPE.

Related Issues

- Please note that there are limitations on the use of any PPE. At the end of this memo is a table that summarizes this for the UC-distributed PPE; including an important note about the limitations of the older light blue lab coats on campus that were not distributed by UC.
- To keep the PPE program financially sustainable, you will be hearing more in the near future about two additions to the program:
 - ✓ A lab coat “loaner program” for individuals only working for short periods on campus
 - ✓ A lab coat “recycling program” to collect unwanted/un-needed coats for laundering and reuse. In the interim, you are welcome to bring any unwanted coats to the storeroom noted above.
- Regarding lab coat laundering, if you have not previously laundered your coat, you need to follow these steps to have your cleaned coat returned to you successfully. Place your dirty coat into the laundry hamper at your assigned “home” location where you want it returned; presumably near your laboratory. It is important to note that wherever your dirty coat is picked up, is where it will be returned. If your coat is lost during laundering, please contact Chandra.Feesser@ehs.ucsb.edu

If you have any questions on use of the LHAT, or any aspect of the above, please contact the [EH&S rep for your department](#). Thanks for your cooperation in establishing these programs.



Dave Vandenberg
Laboratory Safety Program Manager

Attachment - *Use and Limitations of PPE From UC PPE Issued by UCOP*

cc: Laboratory Safety Committee
Ali Aghayan
Cabe Fletcher

Usage and Limitations of the Personal Protective Equipment Issued by UCOP²

| PPE | Usage | Limitations |
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| Safety Glasses ¹ | Intended to protect the wearer's eyes when working with materials that may fly towards the researcher's face, impacting the eyes with solid materials that may impact the eyeball | Does not protect against chemical splashes to the face or eye area. |
| Splash Goggles ¹ | Intended to protect the wearer's eyes against the risk of hazardous chemicals. | If there is a risk of an impact by a solid material, safety glasses should be worn under the goggles. |
| Face Shield ¹ (each research group was issued one - more available upon request at Chemistry storeroom) | Intended to protect the entire face or portions of it from impact hazards such as flying fragments, objects, large chips, and particles. | Use in combination with safety spectacles or goggles: does not protect employees from impact hazards when worn alone. |
| Traditional Cotton/Polyester Blend Lab Coat | Is intended to protect the wearer and the wearer's clothes from incidental splashes of hazardous materials found in research labs. | Not to be used with bloodborne pathogens in quantities large enough to soak through to the skin or flammable materials greater than 1 L or smaller quantities of flammable materials where there is a risk of ignition. |
| Barrier Lab Coat | Intended to protect the wearer when there is a risk of splash from bloodborne pathogens or other biohazardous materials. | Not to be used with when there is a risk of fire. |
| Flame Resistant Lab Coat (dark blue, Nomex IIIA) | Intended to protect the wearer when there is a risk of catching personal garments or skin on fire. Resists ignition, prevent the spread of fire over the garment, and quickly self-extinguish following removal of the ignition source. | Not designed to be "fire-proof," nor are they designed to eliminate the risk of burns. FR clothing splashed or contaminated with a flammable substance and ignited will continue to burn on the surface of the garment until the fuel is exhausted. Garment is not fluid resistant and should be immediately removed and replaced (or laundered) if it comes in contact with spilled substances. |
| Older (light blue) Flame Resistant Lab Coat (not issued by UC, but common on campus) | Intended to protect the wearer when there is a risk of "arc flash" type fire from electrical sources, not flammable liquids. | Coat is treated with flame-resistant coating which can wash out. Users of flammable liquids should instead use the dark blue Nomex coats. |

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| <p>Chemical Splash/Flame Resistant Apron (each research group was issued one - more available upon request at Chemistry storeroom.)</p> | <p>This limited use garment is intended to offer protection from chemical splash and to minimize burn injury during short term exposure to flash fire. A flame resistant lab coat should be worn under the apron.</p> | <p>Not suitable for use with some chemicals and hazardous agents (see DuPont website) Do not use for protection against continuous thermal loads, molten metal splash, hot liquids, or steam. Undergarments made with non-melting fibers such as cotton, silk, wool or rayon should be worn.</p> |
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¹ Must meet the requirements specified in American National Standards Institute, Z87.1-1989 or later.

² Table adapted from UCOP