

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

POLICY NO. 459

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish safety guidelines for storage of flammable liquids.

POLICY:

Storage of flammable liquids shall conform to established guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

A. Guidelines

1. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be used from and stored in approved containers, in accordance with NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code.
2. The total capacity of all approved storage cabinets in a laboratory shall not exceed 60 gallons (227.1 liters) per 5,000 square feet (464.4 square meters). Individual containers of small volume are preferable to large containers.
3. At least one approved flammable or combustible liquid storage room shall be available within any health care facility regularly maintaining a reserve storage capacity in excess of 300 gallons (1,135.5 liters).
4. Venting of storage cabinets shall be permitted. Storage cabinets with approved flame arrestors shall be permitted to be exhausted through a fume-hood exhaust system. Construction of the venting duct within the laboratory shall be equal to the rating of the cabinet.
5. Flammable or combustible liquids shall not be stored nor positioned near open flames, Bunsen burners, ovens, hot pipes and valves or other sources of heat, in corridors, or with exhaust canopies.

These liquids shall not be stored in ordinary refrigerators. They must be stored in refrigerators that are approved for Class 1, Division 1, Group C & D, and that are labeled on the outside doors to denote whether they are acceptable for storage of flammable or combustible liquids.

6. Ensure that "Flammable" and "No Smoking" signs are conspicuously posted and sufficient authorized type fire extinguishers are immediately available in the area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/28/86

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 02/99, 02/02, 09/04, 03/13

REVIEWED: 09/89, 10/92, 03/96, 02/99, 02/02, 09/04, 01/08, 03/13, 08/17

REVIEW COMMITTEE:

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Chief Nursing Officer

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7. An emergency eye wash and drench shower shall be in the immediate vicinity in the event of splashing or spilling onto any body part or clothing toxic, corrosive or highly flammable solutions that can be diluted or retarded by use of water.
8. All bulk metal containers shall be properly grounded to prevent static sparking. When transferring a flammable or combustible liquid from one metal container to another, both containers are to be grounded to each other, and also to an approved static ground.
9. Gas cylinders containing flammable substances are to be stored in a properly ventilated separate area -- a room or enclosure reserved exclusively for that purpose and having a fire-resistant classification of at least one (1) hour.
10. Proper safety handling precautions are to be adhered to at all times. Gloves, aprons, masks, shoe covers, or other special clothing are to be used at all times as required by the product being used. Movement of certain caustic or corrosive solutions shall be done with the use of proper mobility equipment, carts, dollies, carriers, or other appropriate transfer devices.
11. Due to a possible electrical short circuit, "explosion-proof" safety lights shall be installed and functional in all areas containing flammable or combustible material.