

Laboratory Safety Information Sheet 3

Personal Protective Equipment in the Laboratory

Instructions for Students

Please follow the general safety rules and procedures on the use of personal protective equipment outlined below and any specific requirements stipulated for particular units or laboratory activities (including external activities).

LABORATORY COATS

Students and staff must wear a laboratory coat in all laboratory classes in chemistry units, and all other laboratory classes that involve and/or include the handling or demonstration of the following:

- hot liquids and corrosive agents
- human body fluids
- dissection
- liquid radioactive materials
- soldering

Students are required to provide their own laboratory coats for the above activities. Laboratory coats can be hired from the Guild. Laboratory coats should be laundered frequently.

In situations where blood products are being handled or demonstrated, plastic aprons will be provided by the School and **MUST** be used. These aprons must also be disposed of in the correct infectious waste facilities as directed by the tutor or laboratory personnel.

FOOTWEAR

Thongs, scuffs, sandals and bare feet are not permitted in any laboratory at any time. This applies to both lecture and laboratory sessions that are conducted in a laboratory. **Only enclosed footwear is acceptable.**

GLOVES

Students must wear disposable rubber gloves for all activities where potentially infectious or dangerous materials are handled; for example, body fluids, radioactive materials, and some chemicals.

Latex gloves of small, medium, and large sizes are provided for all staff and students.

Chemically-resistant, heat-resistant and low-temperature gloves must be used where required and instructed. These will be provided on request

Note: Wearing of gloves does NOT replace the need for hand washing, as gloves may have defects or may become damaged during use.

SAFETY GLASSES & OVERGLASSES

Safety glasses must be worn in all chemistry units, and during laboratory classes involving the following activities:

- when liquids are heated
- when corrosive reagents are poured
- when human body fluids are handled
- when handling power tools
- when using radioactive sources and materials
- when working with electric circuits containing capacitors
- when soldering

Safety glasses and over glasses are provided by the School for student use. Safety over glasses are provided for students who wear prescription glasses.

Note that prescription glasses are not generally suitable as safety glasses.

More specialised eye protection (e.g. full-face visor) should be worn where required and instructed, and will be supplied on request.

Full-face shields or visors must be worn during procedures involving the following:

- where splashing, splattering or spraying of blood or other body substances may occur
- when pouring cryogenic fluids
- where there is a risk of explosion or implosion

Full-face visors/shields should also be worn for procedures involving the following:

- where glass apparatus is evacuated, recharged with gas, or is pressurized
- when pouring corrosive liquids
- when combustion processes are being carried out

Earmuffs / Earplugs should be used for procedures involving the following:

- mechanical tools