
Ref: OSHE/2016/005

Deans of Faculties
Directors of Research Institutes/Centres (Lab-based Departments)
Head of Departments (Lab-based Departments)

Safety & Health Updates from NUS Senior Management: Extension of the Eye Protection Policy to Teaching Laboratories and Exemption Procedures

Reminder

1. In light of incidents involving splashes of hazardous materials to the eyes which have occurred in life science laboratories (refer to NUS Safety and Health News article, Annex 1e), **we would like to remind all Heads and Directors that eye protection is required for all personnel working in or visiting research laboratories and workshops where hazardous materials are handled.** This mandatory eye protection policy has been effective since 3rd August 2015.
2. **Mandatory Eye Protection in Teaching Laboratories and Workshops - New Requirement**
 - a. Senior management is also requiring that the current eye protection policy for research laboratories be extended to teaching laboratories with effect from 1st Jan 2017. This will ensure there is consistency of safety requirements across all types of laboratories and workshops.
3. **Exemption Procedure – New Requirement**
 - a. The policy allows for personnel to be exempted from the use of protective eye wear in situations where it is not reasonably practicable. Examples of such situations are the use of microscopes and certain activities conducted in biological safety cabinets.
 - b. To ensure there is independent review and harmonization of practices across laboratories on campus, Senior Management now requires exemptions to be approved at the University level. PI/Academic Lab Supervisors are therefore required to submit to OSHE their exemption requests. OSHE will evaluate these requests and recommend to the Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee (ILSC)/Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) for final approval.
4. Please submit the [form](#) for existing activities where eye protection use is not reasonably practicable, including those that have been previously exempted by the department, to safety@nus.edu.sg by 30-Nov-2016.

Clarifications

Kindly refer to Annex A for references on the above matter.

For any clarifications, please contact Ms Tan Chuen Hui at 6601 5052 or chuenhui.tan@nus.edu.sg.

Thank you.

Dr Peck Thian Guan
Director, Office of Safety, Health and Environment

On Behalf of,
Prof Barry Halliwell
Office of the President

Prof Tan Eng Chye
Deputy President (Academic
Affairs) & Provost

Prof Ho Teck Hua
Deputy President (Research
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Annex A

1. Eye and Face Protection Requirements

- a. OSHE Circular on Mandatory Eye Protection, dated 20 Jul 2015
(https://share.nus.edu.sg/corporate/circulars/safety_and_health/2015/OSHE%20Circular%20to%20Deans%20and%20Directors_20July2015.pdf)
- b. Webpage on Eye and Face Protection Requirements in Research Laboratories and Workshops
(https://inetapps.nus.edu.sg/osh/portal/genlab_safety/eyeprotection.html)
- c. Request form for the exemption of use of eye protection
(https://inetapps.nus.edu.sg/osh/portal/genlab_safety/eye%20protection_waiver%20form.pdf)
- d. FAQ on the mandatory use of Eye and Face Protection in Research Laboratories and Workshops
(https://inetapps.nus.edu.sg/osh/portal/genlab_safety/eye%20protection%20FAQ.pdf)
- e. NUS Safety and Health Newsletter: Be Vigilant – Incidents involving hazardous material splashes to the eyes
(https://share.nus.edu.sg/osh/shape/OSHE%20newsletter%20archive/2016/04%20-%20April/Production/NUSSHN_Apr%202016_Compulsory%20eye%20protection.pdf)