



Duke University & Duke University Medical Center
Animal Care & Use Program
Policy



NOTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS WORK IN ANIMAL CARE AREAS

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: All staff (DLAR & Research) will be aware of potentially hazardous agents being utilized in their work areas.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE: Effective communication of how to safely perform one's work duties is driven by Federal standards and institutional policy. When animal research involves the use of hazardous agents (i.e. infectious agents, particularly hazardous chemicals, radiologicals, etc.) it is imperative that workers be notified of the potential risks, and how to work safely when such risks are present. The timely posting of warning signage on doorways and individual cages is critical in ensuring proper notification.

ROLES:

1. Researchers must assure all required signage is properly affixed and notification of pending (or on-going) hazardous work has occurred prior to working with the agent in an animal use area.
2. DLAR must provide sufficient staff training to recognize the hazardous work area.
3. The PI, along with the support of OESO, will prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) that outlines safe work practices for the affected animal use area when hazardous agents are employed.
4. DLAR will assign an appropriate housing that is consistent with the approved SOP.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES REQUIRED: Personnel protective equipment is required; appropriate to the species and the hazard being used.

POLICY OUTLINE:

1. Investigators must notify DLAR via written communication, preferably E-mail, at least 2 business days prior to use of hazardous agents in animals.
2. This requirement will allow posting of hazard signs in the appropriate areas by investigator staff.
3. The following information must be included in the notification correspondence to DALR:
 - a. Hazardous agent to be used,
 - b. Proposed room number (and building),
 - c. Species in which the agent will be used,
 - d. Contact information for the investigator, and
 - e. SOP approved by OESO for the safe handling of the agents and associated animals, i.e., required protective wear and equipment.
4. The requested information should be provided to either Francis Sun (sun00008@mc.duke.edu) or Randall Reynolds (randall.reynolds@duke.edu).