

Chapter 18 Laboratory Signs & Storage of Biological Materials

Hazard Communication

Labels and Signs

All BL 2 and 3 laboratories must have a completed Universal Biohazard placard displayed prominently on the entrance doors. These placards, featuring the red biohazard symbol, must specify the name and emergency telephone numbers of the PI or other responsible person(s) and the building monitor. PI's may opt not to list their home phone number as an emergency number; this is acceptable so long as the building monitor has an emergency number for the PI. Additionally, signs specifying no eating, drinking or smoking must be displayed on the entrance doors to all BL 2 and 3 laboratories.

Smaller red biohazard symbols on white background should be posted on all equipment that is used for or in which biohazardous materials or microbial pathogens are stored. In addition to this biohazard sticker, a second sticker describing the disposal of biohazardous materials must be posted on all biological safety cabinets in BL2 and BL3 laboratories.

All signs and labels are available free of charge from RM&S.

Storage of Biological Materials

1. A biological hazard sign must be clearly posted on storage areas such as refrigerator, freezers, cabinets, etc. containing biological materials.
2. All containers and/or racks are to be clearly labeled to identify the contents.
3. Storage containers must be intact (no tears or cracks), leakproof and covered or closed to avoid spills or contamination. Secondary containment should be used when possible.
4. To prevent unnecessary handling of specimens, all materials should be inventoried and organized.
5. Any substance being stored in a freezer should be placed in a labeled container designed for low temperature storage.
6. If flammable materials are used, they must be stored in equipment that is designed for this purpose.
7. No personal items should be stored in lab refrigerators, freezers or incubators (e.g., food, beverages).
8. When storage equipment needs repair, calibration or transport, it must be decontaminated completely prior to starting work or being removed.

9. Contact the Office of Radiation Safety for the safe storage of radioactive biological materials.