

Hazardous Materials

(WAL Security Procedure 4.5)

Definition of Hazardous Materials

- ❑ The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines hazardous materials as substances or chemicals that pose a potential risk to the health and safety of employees in the workplace.
- ❑ Hazardous materials can include chemicals, gases, liquids, solids, and biological agents that, when not properly handled or controlled, have the potential to cause harm to employees through exposure, inhalation, ingestion, or physical contact.



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Guidelines

1. Classification

- Clearly classify and categorize all hazardous materials according to their chemical properties and potential risks.
- Use universally recognized hazard symbols, such as those provided by the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), to communicate risks effectively.

2. Labeling and Documentation

- Clearly label all containers with the material's name, hazard classification, handling instructions, and emergency contact information.
- Maintain up-to-date inventory records of all hazardous materials on-site.

3. Storage and Segregation

- Use approved, leak-proof containers and storage tanks designed for the specific hazardous materials being stored.
- Regularly inspect containers for damage or signs of deterioration.
- Separate chemicals by hazard class and compatibility.
- Store acids, bases, and flammables in different areas, and ensure proper separation from incompatible substances.
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for storage conditions, including temperature, humidity, and ventilation.

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4. Handling

- Handle the materials in accordance with handling instruction provided by the manufacturer.
- Follow the manufacturer's established protocols for transferring and disposing.
- Avoid unnecessary exposure by using appropriate gloves, safety goggles, and lab gowns.

5. Emergency Equipment

- Maintain readily accessible emergency equipment, such as eyewash stations and fire extinguishers in the vicinity of hazardous materials storage areas.
- Conduct regular inspections to ensure these devices are functioning correctly.

6. Security Measures

- Implement security practices to prevent unauthorized access to hazardous materials storage areas.
- Conduct routine inspections of storage areas and containers to identify and address any potential hazards or compliance issues.