The Sound School Regional Aquaculture Center

Outline for Laboratory Safety Plan Proposals - June 15, 2006
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Laboratory Safety/Maintenance laboratory plans should result in written work products that can be submitted for review. The work product is a laboratory safety plan for the lab that you monitor/maintain. It will be available for review (notebook format) which can be updated.

Brief Outline – 3 Part Laboratory Safety Plan

1. Safety and Universal Precautions - sometimes called the " prudent person rule "by the court systems. In general it detailed any lab hazards and a written process to minimize them This often involved PPE Personal Protection Equipment requirements and you can see this OSHA response on high hazard equipment to this as "no one under 18 may operate this machinery" etc, lockout/tag procedures for equipment is another example. Electrical operations have many universal precautions about moisture and "ground to neutral," best/safe practices.

2. Employer (District) Policies or Procedures – in this section would be detailed what procedures/processes the district expects to be followed such as,
New Haven Public Schools – Chemical Hygiene Plan
New Haven Public Schools – Hazard Communication Standards
New Haven Public Schools – Bloodborne Pathogens Program
New Haven Public Schools – District Emergency Response Plan
The largest section here concerns MSDS sheets and responses to chemicals, exposure spills and contact precautions for body fluids such as blood, saliva or spit. These can also be state and federal laws that the district has included into "board policy." Some sections may refer specially to teacher/student responsibilities. A student "laboratory safety contract" is a good example of this for high school science and chemistry labs. In directed laboratories the Vo Ag teacher functions as the "employer" of the student with best/safe practices, and is part of Vo Ag educational program.

3. Section 3 - Is Regulatory Responses - to hazards that may occur in the laboratory which supercede local authorities such as sanitation or building inspectors. One of the most common example is occupancy codes "the room is rated for 100 people" etc or fire egress signage fire alarms etc. "Exit doors must have free access from blockages and meet ADA standards." Others include posters for the CT Right to Know Law and mercury clean up in schools. The check for compliance here includes fire exit signs and visible "Right to Know Posters." The plan would

denote where the posters are hung – "This lab has 3 Right to Know Posters - they are located ___." Clearance around equipment and proper rack/storage for chemicals and related supplies are other examples. DEP spill reporting requirements might be recorded here.

Note -

The weekly teacher and student lab record sheets is not the lab plan. The lab sheet monitors if the lab safety plan is being followed or is up to date. It is evidence that someone is checking the level of safety supplies and lab hazards, etc. For instance most lab plans I have seen have a directory of equipment that need service or maintenance schedules with a check list. Included here would be the inventory and if piece of equipment was removed or sent for service – a notation on the check list etc., "band saw tagged out for service and the date."

The time it takes to prepare the laboratory safety plans is covered by the Appendix D- Stipend. Vo Ag labs are rated "high hazard industrial" and because fishing and farming are rated high hazard occupations and we use industry level equipment in our labs. That is why the State Dept of Education regulations have such a low Vo Ag teacher/student ratio.