Empty Glass Bottles and Other Garbage:

Empty glass bottles must be decontaminated before they are disposed. One common type of glass bottle used by SCS laboratories are 4L amber colored solvent bottles. Prior to decontaminating, the containers must be completely empty. After decontamination bottles can be placed in laboratory garbage cans or placed in the hallway for pick up by Building Service Workers. The chemical name on the bottle must be marked out and the word “EMPTY” written on the label. For specific decontamination procedures refer to: [http://www.drs.illinois.edu/css/guidesplans/wasteguide/chapter9.aspx?tbID=gp](http://www.drs.illinois.edu/css/guidesplans/wasteguide/chapter9.aspx?tbID=gp)

In addition, building service workers will not dispose of items left in the hallways unless they are marked “TRASH” or “GARBAGE”. Please label trash appropriately to ensure it is removed from the hallway in a timely manner.

Jerrican Waste Requirements:

Jerricans should be used to collect high volume waste (at least 10L or more per year) streams that are not reactive, extremely toxic, or malodorous. Many SCS groups collect non-halogenated and halogenated organic solvent waste streams in jerricans. During annual safety inspections, the SCS Safety Office has noticed that many groups are not labeling and/or recording their jerrican waste properly. Failure to properly label and record jerrican waste contents is a violation...
of US and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regulations. Improperly labeled and/or recorded waste could result in a fine from the EPA during their annual visit to campus.

All jerricans at a minimum should have a generic label on the container such as “halogenated solvent waste”. If a generic label is used a log sheet detailing the contents of the waste must be kept near the container. The log sheet and jerrican must have a unique number or letter that identifies which jerrican belongs with each specific log sheet (for example jerrican NH1-1 must correspond with the log sheet marked NH1-1). The amount and type of waste added to the jerrican must be recorded each time waste is added to the jerrican. For example, if an employee adds 10mL acetone to their waste jerrican, they must record 10mL acetone on the corresponding log sheet. If waste collected in jerricans contains only a few chemicals an appropriate label may be written on the jerrican (i.e. Waste Acetone, Ethanol and Ethyl Acetate). Contact the SCS Chemical Safety Coordinator with questions regarding jerrican or other laboratory waste

Cold Room Safety:

Personnel working in cold rooms must remain especially cautious when working with chemicals. Due to the fact that cold rooms are unventilated, enclosed areas, no chemical reactions should be performed unless specifically approved by the cold room supervisor. In addition, no volatile chemicals (even those in closed containers) should be brought into the cold room. If these chemical containers were to break, toxic vapors would be released into the unventilated atmosphere. Cold room users should also note the condition of the floor prior to entering the cold room. Floors in these rooms can be slippery as they are often wet. It is also important to dress appropriate to temperature and duration of exposure.

Furthermore, the door to the inner cold room can freeze and the latch may become inoperable. Users should ensure proper function before closing the door. In the event an individual becomes trapped within the cold room, the panic button should be used. However, someone must be nearby to hear and lend assistance. It is suggested that cold room users inform coworkers of plans to work in the cold room prior to the commencement of work in the cold room.

SCS Safety Office
University of Illinois
306 Noyes Lab
217-244-7268
eduvall@uiuc.edu

Is there a safety topic you would like covered in a future newsletter? Have any comments or suggestions? Send an email to eduvall@uiuc.edu