

SDS Glossary

Action Level

A concentration designated in 29 CFR part 1910 for a specific substance, calculated as an eight (8)-hour time-weighted average (TWA), which initiates certain required activities such as exposure monitoring and medical surveillance.

Acute Health Effect

An adverse effect arising from a short (minutes to hours) period of exposure.

Ceiling Limit

A designated maximum airborne level to which people can be exposed.

Chemical Hygiene Committee

The Chemical Hygiene Committee is responsible for setting campus policy regarding laboratory safety within the scope of the FRCC Chemical Hygiene Plan. The Chemical Hygiene Committee will meet periodically, as set by the Committee chair, but no less than quarterly to discuss new Laboratory Safety/Chemical Hygiene issues and any program items that may arise. The Chemical Hygiene Committee will offer comments to the Chemical Hygiene Officer regarding program improvements and suggestions and participate in laboratory safety inspections with other campus representatives. See [Chemical Hygiene Plan, Appendix F](#) for the structure, role and responsibility of the Chemical Hygiene Committee.

Chemical Hygiene Officer

An employee designated by the employer, and who is qualified by training or experience, to provide technical guidance in the development and implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Hygiene Plan. This definition is not intended to place limitations on the position description or job classification that the designated individual shall hold within the employer's organizational structure.

Chemical Hygiene Plan

A written program developed and implemented by the employer which sets forth procedures, equipment, personal protective equipment and work practices that (i) are capable of protecting employees from the health hazards presented by hazardous chemicals used in that particular workplace and (ii) meets the requirements of paragraph (e) of this section.

Chronic Health Effect

An adverse effect arising after long periods (months to years) of exposure.

CDPHE

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Hazardous Chemical

Any chemical that is a physical hazard or a health hazard.

Health Hazard

Includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic system, and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

IDLH - Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.

An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiate substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

Lower Explosive Limit (LEL)

The minimum concentration as a percentage, of flammable gas that can be ignited. Also referred to as the Lower Flammable Limit (LFL).

mg/m³

Concentration measurement in milligrams per cubic meter.

(M)SDS

Material Safety Data Sheet; usage being phased out. Use SDS in future.

NIOSH

[National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/)

OEL

Occupational Exposure Limit - A health based workplace standard to protect workers from adverse exposure. For example, TLV or PEL.

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration - <http://www.osha.gov/>)

Located within the US Department of Labor. The agency responsibilities include formulating occupational safety and health standards and inspecting workplaces to ensure compliance with these standards.

PEL

Permissible Exposure Limit - the maximum eight-hour time-weighted-average air concentration to which employees can be exposed. This level is enforced by OSHA.

PEL-STEL

Permissible Exposure Limit-Short Term Exposure Limit - 15 min Time Weighted Average exposure that shall not be exceeded at any time during a workday.

PHS - Particularly Hazardous Substance

PHS's are, according to OSHA, select carcinogens, reproductive toxins, or substances that have a high degree of acute toxicity. The OSHA requirements for working with PHS's are more a matter of degree than a clear-cut differentiation from other substances. Risk assessments must always be conducted. The Laboratory

Standard simply requires that higher risk materials be identified and mandates that extra precautions be used, if appropriate. More detail on PHS's is included in the [FRCC Chemical Hygiene Plan, Appendix D](#), along with a sample "Prior Approval Form."

PPE

Personal Protective Equipment - Includes items such as gloves, safety goggles and respirator masks that are worn to reduce the potential for exposure to chemicals.

PPM

Concentration in parts per million (by volume). Label Any written, printed, or graphic material displayed on or affixed to containers of hazardous chemicals.

SDS

Safety Data Sheet [see (M)SDS]

Secondary Container

"Secondary Container" is defined as any container being used beyond the original manufacturer's bottle that the chemical was shipped in. See [Chemical Hygiene Plan, Definitions](#).

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes how your lab will handle a hazardous chemical safely, including the amount and concentration you will use, how you obtain or create the working solution, and special handling procedures, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment.

STEL

Short Term Exposure Limit - Maximum concentration for continuous 15 minute period, allowed four times a day with at least 60 minutes between exposures.

TLV

Threshold Limit Value - An exposure level under which most people can work consistently for 8 hours a day, without adverse effects. Can also be used with 15-minute Short Term Exposure Limits. This exposure level was developed by the ACGIH and is not a legally enforceable value.

TWA

Time Weighted Average – the average exposure for an individual over a given working period (normally 8 hours).

(UEL) Upper Explosive Limit

Percentage by volume of a flammable gas or vapor that is the maximum level ignitable. Also referred to the Upper Flammable Limit (UFL).