

# LAB

# NOTES

Safety Newsletter for Lab Workers

UCSD Environment, Health &amp; Safety Office

## Report PCB-Containing Equipment

UCSD is required to identify and label equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and report locations where PCBs are present to state and federal regulatory agencies. Disposal of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment is regulated as hazardous waste.



PCBs are man-made chemicals used prior to 1978 as coolants and

lubricants, insulation in electrical equipment, and in the manufacturing of transformers and capacitors.

Production of PCBs in the U.S. was banned in 1978 by the federal Toxic Substances Control Act because evidence showed PCBs accumulate and persist in the

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## Biosafety Cabinet Certification and Maintenance

Biosafety cabinets at UCSD must be certified annually to ensure proper function. Additionally, biosafety cabinets must be decontaminated before being moved, and recertified after installation in a new location.

Technical Safety Services, Inc (TSS) is the only vendor authorized to service and certify UCSD biosafety cabinets under a recently negotiated UC systemwide contract. Contact TSS to arrange these services well in advance:

Technical Safety Services, Inc.  
7570 Trade Street, San Diego, CA. 92121  
(800) 877-7742 or (858) 577-2800  
TSS representatives for UCSD:  
Russell Drago, [rdrago@techsafety.com](mailto:rdrago@techsafety.com)  
Gerry Ruiz, [gruiz@techsafety.com](mailto:gruiz@techsafety.com)

Learn more about UCSD biosafety cabinet policy on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/menu/bio>.

## Using Compressed Gas Cylinders

UCSD has a faculty-approved Compressed Gas Policy that applies to all laboratories, shops, and studios. Established several years ago by the Chemical Safety and Surveillance Committee, the policy includes purchasing information, classification of gases, storage and use requirements, labeling, handling, transport of cylinders, disposal, and emergency management of leaking cylinders.

Use the compressed gas information on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cg> to improve workplace safety, and keep UCSD in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations:



- Read the **Compressed Gas Overview** first, before beginning work with any compressed gases at UCSD. This section defines the hazard classification system, and overviews storage and use pointers, additional precautions, and purchasing information.

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## Register Super-conducting Magnets with EH&S

Any magnet requiring cryogenic support and electricity must be registered with Environment, Health & Safety. Notify EH&S when a magnet is purchased, fabricated, moved to a different location, disposed of, dismantled, or sold.

Read **Magnet Safety Guidelines for UCSD Researchers** on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/magnetsafety> for registration procedures.

## Compressed Gas Cylinders

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- Review the **Compressed Gas Guidelines** for general UCSD requirements on **all** compressed gases.
- Consult the **Toxic and Hazardous Gas Classification** page to determine the classification of compressed gases in your workplace. Footnotes are provided on how this system of classification was created.
- Follow the **Requirements for Compressed Gas Use** specified for the hazard classification of your compressed gases. **Note:** There is a small quantity exemption included to help maintain a degree of flexibility while reducing the overall quantity of hazardous material at UCSD. If you're unsure whether this small quantity exemption applies to you, contact the Chemical Safety Officer for assistance.



### Go to Enrollment Central for Safety Training

Register for safety training on Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>. Browse "EH&S-Safety" under Course Topics for schedules. **Find research safety training at:**

- **General Lab Safety & Chemical Safety Training**  
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/labchemtrain>
- **Radiation Safety Training**  
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/radtrain>
- **Biosafety Training**  
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/biotrain>
- **Hazardous Waste Training**  
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/hazwastrain>

### Basic Cell Culture Workshop

Learn cell culture techniques and information for working more efficiently, effectively, and safely in the Basic Cell Culture Workshop presented by the CORE Cell Culture Facility. Find course schedules and register via Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>.

### UCSD Core Bio Services Vendor Show

CORE Cell Culture Facility will host its annual vendor show **June 14th** on the lawn between Medical Teaching Facility and Stein Clinical Research Building.

Check out the latest products for biotech and medical research. Register online at <http://core.ucsd.edu/VendorShow/VendorShowPreReg.epl> to enjoy brunch foods in the morning, plate lunches, and drawings for great prizes.

### New UC Contract with VWR and Fisher Scientific Laboratory Supplies

UC has negotiated a new contract with VWR and Fisher Scientific for general-purpose laboratory supplies. Learn about the new UC contract and its benefits on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/Blink/External/Topics/Policy/0,1162,18138,00.html>.

EH&S will be reviewing inventory records of compressed gas cylinders over the next few months to help improve overall safety and ensure compliance with the Compressed Gas Policy. You can help by taking a proactive approach to managing your compressed gas cylinders.

Questions? Contact the Chemical Safety Officer, Doug Harvey at (858) 822-1579 or [ehschem@ucsd.edu](mailto:ehschem@ucsd.edu).



An unrestrained CG cylinder can become a torpedo.

### PCBs ... continued

environment for many years, including in human fat tissue, and are linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. Continued use of PCB-containing items, however, was not prohibited.

While large transformers on campus have already been replaced with non-PCB equipment, research and shop facilities may still have PCB-containing equipment in use.

**Help UCSD comply** with state and federal labeling, reporting, and disposal requirements for PCBs. If you use PCBs or suspect you may have equipment containing PCBs, notify the EH&S Environmental Management Facility at (858) 534-2753.

Environmental Management Facility personnel will handle labeling and reporting requirements, and arrange for appropriate disposal when the equipment is phased out of operation.