



Materials Safety

Change in Eye Protection Policy for Wet Labs

A Message from Rick Kelly



Eye injuries in Division labs can be eliminated through the thoughtful use of protective eyewear. Please take a few moments to evaluate your work area and confirm that your protective equipment is adequate and well maintained.

—Mark Alper,
Division Deputy Director

Issue

Recent injuries and near misses have highlighted the need for improvements in the Division's eye protection policy for wet labs.

Changes in Policy

The revised MSD eyewear policy requires that all personnel wear safety glasses with side shields, at a minimum, when entering any lab in which hazardous chemicals are used. This policy is applicable to all MSD labs at LBNL and is recommended for the MSD labs on the UCB campus.

Areas in an LBNL lab can be exempted from this requirement if Rick Kelly determines that there are no chemical or other eye hazards. These areas are delineated with plastic tape on the floor.

For campus labs, contact EH&S at 510/642-3073 or read the following Fact Sheet:

<http://ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factsheets/25eyeprot.pdf>

Also, the Division is asking that you use chemical splash goggles rather than safety glasses when handling corrosive materials that might splash or spill, such as acids, bases and organic corrosives like phenol and dichloromethane. Where large quantities of corrosives are handled, it may be appropriate to wear a faceshield in addition to splash goggles.



Sources of Protective Eyewear

Optically uncorrected safety glasses and goggles are available from VWR, Sigma Aldrich or other vendors through the E-Buy system. Paul Johnson has assembled a collection of goggles that you can try on to determine which is most comfortable.

Glasses with corrective lenses can be obtained through Health Services (x 6266). Simply schedule a visit and bring them your prescription (not more than a year old). Health Services will allow you to choose a comfortable frame and will provide you with safety glasses at no cost. They can even provide the required eye exam and recharge most of the cost to your University-provided vision plan. This service is available to all employees, post docs and students paid by LBNL, but not to visitors.

