

Environmental Health and Safety Policies

Safety Manuals

USD policy and procedure relating to biological and chemical safety; and to radiation safety are described in a) USD Biological and Chemical Safety Manual and b) USD Radiation Safety Manual.

Faculty Handbook Policies

The following policies from the Faculty Handbook pertain to Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) procedures related to research.

Research Involving Hazardous Biological Agents and Materials

From the **Faculty Handbook**, page 102

The University of South Dakota has instituted policies and procedures for the safe and responsible use of all hazardous biological agents and materials. The policies and procedures for these agents and materials satisfy all requirements of state and federal laws and guidelines.

To enable these policies and procedures, The University has established an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The IBC is responsible for the review and approval of all University activities involving hazardous biological agents and materials. The Vice President for Research appoints the IBC. It consists of five or more members with at least two members coming from the community external to the University. The University Compliance Officer, an ex officio non-voting member of the IBC, has the administrative oversight responsibility.

Hazardous biological agents consist of viruses, bacteria, fungi, and non-exempt recombinant DNA organisms listed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Hazardous biological materials consist of toxins listed by the CDC or the USDA and non-exempt -103- recombinant DNA molecules. Toxins are materials, usually proteins, produced by living cells or organisms. The IBC responsibility does not extend to toxic materials that are not toxins.

The IBC is authorized to inspect research facilities and to obtain information relating to laboratory practices and procedures. It is authorized to take such actions as are in their judgment necessary to ensure compliance with the guidelines, applicable federal and state law, and University policies and procedures. These actions may include the cessation of research in the event of a violation of policy or procedure that may create a safety hazard.

The Vice President for Research is responsible for the implementation of this policy through the establishment of appropriate policies and procedures and is delegated the authority to establish and oversee such policies and procedures.

Hazardous Waste Policies and Responsibilities

USD Radiation Safety Manual

From the Faculty Handbook, page 80

The University of South Dakota is committed to the responsible management of materials that are, that contain, or that may become hazardous to people or to the environment. This commitment includes compliance with the applicable requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 as expressed in regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and delegated to the State of South Dakota for administration.

Hazardous materials include fuels, janitorial supplies, chemicals, and other items and materials such as fluorescent lights, batteries, asbestos, and paints. The responsibility for management resides primarily upon the personnel who use or are otherwise directly responsible for the materials or items. The general responsibility within the University for education and oversight of those with the primary responsibility resides upon the Director of Facilities Management and the Compliance Officer. The latter is both the chemical hygiene officer and the radiation safety officer.

Responsible management is a complex matter involving legally defined safety standards and independent risk assessment. The legally defined management responsibilities sometimes find their expression in documents such as the air quality permit to operate the University incinerators provided by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the license for the use of byproduct materials provided by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). However, numerous additional specific legal requirements exist. These are primarily federal and include legislation such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Agency policies and guidelines frequently supplement and give expression to the legislation. For specific information, contact the Director of Facilities Management at 677-5341 or the Compliance Officer at 677-6184