Chapter 290, Health and Safety Services
Section 32, Minors in University Facilities
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Supersedes: New
Responsible Department: Environmental Health and Safety
Source Document: California Labor Code Sections 1285-1312

Exhibit A, Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement
Exhibit B, Project Checklist for Minors Performing Research in Laboratories

I. Purpose

This section outlines policy and procedure governing minors in university facilities where hazardous chemicals, biohazardous or infectious materials, radioactive materials or radiation producing equipment are used or stored or physical hazards exist (i.e., compressed gases, high voltage, extreme temperatures, excessive noise, lasers, etc.).

This policy applies to all minors, including students working on science fair projects, involved in any of UC Davis educational outreach programs, or employed in laboratory setting. The policy does not apply to students enrolled in courses listed in the UC Davis General Catalog or Extension Catalog having a laboratory component.

II. Policy

A. The University ensures the safety of minors visiting or participating in research laboratory experiences. by balancing the advantages of scientific experiences with the need for safety.

B. Minors 12 years or younger are not allowed in UC Davis research laboratories, shops, or vivaria other than as part of an approved and supervised tour.

C. Minors between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age are allowed in UC Davis laboratories or vivaria with the written consent of their parent(s) or guardian, when accompanied by a trained and knowledgeable campus supervisor and must follow the safety training requirements described in III, below.

III. Safety Training Requirements

A. Minors shall be trained on specific hazards to which they may be exposed in the laboratory, how to recognize those hazards, and how to protect themselves from those hazards.

B. Minors shall be trained on the contents of the laboratory-specific chemical hygiene plan and the standard operating procedures applicable to their work.

C. Additional training may be required as described below.

1. Chemicals

   a. Minors must attend laboratory safety training prior to directly working with any chemicals. EH&S will assist departments in providing safety training.

   b. Minors are not allowed to work with “acutely hazardous materials” (i.e., compounds having a rat oral $LD_{50} \leq 50$ mg/kg, such as hydrofluoric acid, acrylonitrile, osmium tetroxide, etc.) and “IARC Group 1 or 2A carcinogens or Cal/OSHA regulated human carcinogens (http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/environmental-health-safety/chemical/forms/chemical-carcinogen-safety-manual/vii-appendices).

2. Biohazardous and infectious materials

   a. Minors are prohibited from working with biohazardous materials above Risk Group One (BSL-1) or any select agents.

b. Minors between the ages of 12 and 18 years may enter and work at BSL-1 in a large open bay laboratory where BSL-2 work may be taking place as long as they do not have contact with the BSL-2 work.

3. Radioactive materials and radiation producing equipment

a. In general, minors are not allowed to work with or handle radioactive materials or radiation producing machines. The Principal Investigator (PI) may apply to the Radiation Safety Committee for an exemption to this policy, but only under direct supervision.

b. In no case will minors be allowed to work with volatile forms of radioactivity, irradiators, or radiation producing machines.

c. In addition to the requirements above, the minor must meet any other conditions deemed necessary by the Radiation Safety Committee.

4. Animal care and use

The minor must abide by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) policies, if working with animals (http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc).

5. Physical hazards

The minor must be trained on the physical hazards covered in the IIPP or laboratory-specific chemical hygiene plan.

IV. Responsibilities

A. Department Head is responsible for the following:

1. Establishing and maintaining department programs that will provide a safe and healthful work environment for employees, students, visitors, and minor children (under 18 years of age).

2. Ensuring that adequate supervision and training is provided to minors participating in laboratory research consistent with this policy, the department's IIPP, and the laboratory-specific chemical hygiene plan.

3. Securing additional approvals before hiring if the minor is a near relative (see Section 380-13).

B. PI, Laboratory Manager and Supervisor are responsible for the following:

1. Direct supervision of minors working in his/her laboratory.

a. The designated supervisor on the Project Checklist (Exhibit B) must be the actual person observing and physically present in the laboratory during the time the minor is performing laboratory work.

b. At no time is a minor to be allowed to work alone.

c. If under exceptional circumstances the supervisor cannot be present, an alternative supervisor must be designated on the Project Checklist and be present in the laboratory.

d. A background check is required of individuals who are directly responsible for the care and safety of minors, i.e. staff supervising minors (see Personnel Policies for Staff Members, Procedure 21 Exhibit D, Background Checks).

2. Securing authorization from the Student Employment Center prior to minor beginning work.

3. Reviewing emergency evacuation procedures with the minor prior to beginning work.
4. Completing a *Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement* (Exhibit A) prior to any minor entering a UC Davis laboratory to conduct work. The waiver must be signed by the minor and his/her parents or legal guardian and be retained with the student's file.
5. Completing a *Proposed Project and Safety Checklist for Minors Performing Research in Laboratories* form (Exhibit B) and retain with the completed waiver.
6. Following the Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual guidelines, the laboratory-specific chemical hygiene plan, and applicable standard operating procedures.
7. Ensuring all applicable training is complete and documented as described in this policy prior to the minor starting work in a laboratory.
8. Ensuring medical surveillance is provided, if applicable.
9. The PI is ultimately responsible for safety in his or her laboratory, and may choose to further restrict or prohibit minors from performing research in his/her laboratory.

C. Minor in the laboratory is responsible for the following:

1. Following campus policy and procedures, departmental laboratory IIPP, laboratory-specific chemical hygiene plan, and applicable standard operating procedures in the laboratory.
2. Using provided safety equipment, protective work clothing, and personal protective equipment (at a minimum, safety eye wear, laboratory coat or grown, gloves, closed-toe shoes).
3. Reporting unsafe or hazardous situations immediately to your supervisor or instructor.
4. Reporting all injuries or accidents to your supervisor.
5. Participating in mandatory medical surveillance.
6. Participating in required safety training.
7. Following campus hazardous waste disposal and spill procedures.

D. Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) is responsible for the following:

1. Providing assistance with the development and review of department's safety program for minors.
2. Providing assistance to PIs and laboratory supervisors with training for minors participating in laboratory research.

V. Further Information

For further information, contact EH&S at (530) 752-1493.

VI. References and Related Policies

A. California Labor Code Sections 1285-1312 (http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html).

B. UCD Policy and Procedure Manual (http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/about.htm):

1. Section 290-15, Safety Management Program.
2. Section 290-27, Hazardous Substances Communication Program.
3. Section 290-30, Use and Care of Animals in Research and Teaching.
4. Section 290-56, Chemical Safety.

5. Section 380-13, Near Relatives.

C. Personnel Policies for Staff Members (http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/spp/spp-toc.htm):

1. UCD Procedure 3 Exhibit A, Student Employees.
2. UCD Procedure 21 Exhibit D, Background Checks.