

Guidelines for Minors in Laboratories

RICE UNIVERSITY

PURPOSE

These guidelines are intended to provide principal investigators (PI) and project managers who work with minors in a laboratory setting resources and procedures to follow in order to promote a safe working environment and reduce or eliminate the potential exposure to laboratory hazards.

SCOPE

This guideline is applicable to all laboratories at Rice University in which laboratory personnel work with hazardous materials and equipment.

DEFINITIONS

BSL-2 – This is a biosafety level prescribed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for the containment of agents with higher potential to cause harmful effect on people and the environment.

Laboratory– An area where scientific or clinical research is conducted.

Minor – Any person under the age of 18 including currently enrolled students and visitors.

Radiation Area - Any area, accessible to individuals, in which radiation levels could result in an individual receiving a dose equivalent in excess of 0.005 rem (0.05 millisievert) in one hour at 30 centimeters from the radiation machine or from any surface that the radiation penetrates.

Hazardous Material - any item or agent (biological, chemical, physical) which has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors.

Select Agent and Toxin – Regulated materials which poses a severe threat to public health and safety. Regulations on the use, storage, and transportation are covered under 42 CFR Part 73, 7 CFR Part 331, and 9 CFR Part 121. A list of select agents and toxin can be found at <http://www.selectagents.gov>

RESTRICTIONS

Minors under the age of 14 are not permitted access to any research laboratory where hazards are present.

Regardless of their status, (visitor, student, volunteer or paid), minors ages 15-18 are restricted from working or conducting research with the following material:

- BSL-2 Agents
- Human, nonhuman primate, or other mammalian cells and tissues

- Select agents and toxins
- Animal Research with ABSL-2 agents
- Explosives
- Chemical Hazards (acute hazards)

Minors are not permitted to enter radiation areas unless the radiation safety officer (RSO) provides prior approval. In addition, minors are not permitted to handle any radiation source material and must be issued a radiation badge for the duration of the work.

Minors are not permitted to enter laser laboratories using class 3B or 4 lasers unless the laser safety officer (LSO) has approved them to do so.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS

The principal investigator or the project manager must ensure strict adherence with all safety procedures and training requirements specific to the research. The following items should be reviewed prior to admittance to the lab:

- All forms must be completed and submitted before work commences
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be available at all times (lab coats, safety glasses, gloves, etc.)
- Ensure that minors are directly supervised at all times by a qualified supervisor. A qualified supervisor is an employee of Rice University with technical expertise in the field of work.
- Minors must have lab specific training on agents used in labs and knowledge of the location all material safety data sheets (MSDS), safety equipment, and standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Access to the laboratory should be coordinated by the principal investigator or lab designee to ensure supervision is available. Minors should never be allowed to work alone in a laboratory.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS

Minors will not be allowed to enter the research labs without completing the following:

- Completed and signed *Release and Hold Harmless Agreement*.
- Executed agreement must be sent to Risk Management.
- Complete required Laboratory Safety Training through Environmental Health and Safety.
- Complete lab specific training provided by the lab mentor or person responsible within the laboratory for training.
- If applicable, complete biosafety, radiation, laser and hazardous waste management and disposal training.

INCIDENT REPORTING

Any incident or accident involving a minor must be reported to the principal investigator or project manager immediately.

- **Documentation:** The principal investigator or project manager with input from the minor must complete an [Accident/Injury Report](#). The principal investigator or project manager should sign and send a copy of the report to Risk Management and Environmental Health and Safety as soon as possible.
- **Notification:** After the principal investigator or project manager has notified the department the principal investigator or project manager must notify the minor's parent/legal guardian.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

If the injury/illness is not covered by workers compensation the minor's parent or legal guardian is responsible for the cost of any medical treatment provided as a result of a lab-related injury or illness. For information about how to handle work related injuries contact the Risk Management Office at 713-348-4751 or 713-348-5082. You may also visit the risk management website for additional information at <http://riskmanagement.rice.edu>.