2020 General Laboratory Safety Inspection Questions

Administrative and Training

1. Is the roster in Labs @ Berkeley (L@B) current?
2. Have the PI and all lab members taken EHS 101: Lab Safety Fundamentals, or a refresher course, in the past three years?
3. Have the PI and all lab members completed EHS 502: Workplace Safety Program?
4. Has the PI certified the Lab Hazard Assessment Tool (LHAT) within the last year?
5. Has the Laboratory Self-inspection been completed within the last year?

Chemical and Equipment Safety

6. Are all hazardous waste containers labeled with current Hazardous Waste Program (HWP) labels?
7. Are all hazardous waste containers kept closed except when adding waste?
8. Are chemicals stored properly (incompatibles separated, inside flammable or corrosive cabinets as much as possible, no broken caps, clearly legible labels, etc.)?
9. Are emergency eyewashes being flush tested monthly? (The campus is responsible for testing emergency showers annually.)
10. Is access to emergency eyewashes and showers unobstructed?
11. Is a current chemical inventory door sign posted outside the room?
12. Are all compressed gas cylinders capped when not in use?
13. Are cylinders over 26 inches tall secured to a rigid structure at 1/3 and 2/3 the height of the cylinder with non-combustible restraints? (One restraint for cylinders less than 26 inches)

Electrical and Engineering Safety

14. Are outer sheaths of flexible cords undamaged?
15. Are all experimental and/or machine guards/shields in place and secure?
16. Are electrical lines and cords properly managed and not in walkways or places where they can be a tripping hazard?
17. Are built-in-lab motors, motor-control apparatus, and/or motor branch-circuit conductors protected against overheating due to motor overloads?

Fire Safety

(Issues reported in this section will be followed up by Fire Prevention Division member Megan Hall.)

18. Is 18 inches of clearance provided from the top of stored materials to the ceiling in laboratories with fire sprinklers (24 inches if no sprinklers are present)? (For all questions and follow-up issues regarding this item, please contact Fire Prevention Division member Megan Hall, mchall@berkeley.edu.)
19. Are aisles and exits clear of obstructions and slip or trip hazards? (For all questions and follow-up issues regarding this item, please contact Fire Prevention Division member Megan Hall, mchall@berkeley.edu.)
20. Does the group conduct and document monthly visual inspections for all fire extinguishers located in their lab spaces? (For all questions and follow-up issues regarding this item, please contact Fire Prevention Division member Megan Hall, mchall@berkeley.edu.)
21. Is access to portable fire extinguishers free of obstructions? (For all questions and follow-up issues regarding this item, please contact Fire Prevention Division member Megan Hall, mchall@berkeley.edu.)
22. Are incompatible gases adequately separated (e.g., oxygen and flammables)? (For all questions and follow-up issues regarding this item, please contact Fire Prevention Division member Megan Hall, mchall@berkeley.edu.)
COVID-19 Safety

23. Does the lab have a Research Ramp-Up SOP?
24. Have all lab members working on campus completed EHS 207 COVID-19 Training?
25. Are physical distancing requirements met?
26. Are face coverings used appropriately?
27. Is hand sanitizer and/or a hand washing station readily available?
28. Is the lab using disinfecting supplies appropriately?