OSHA LAB STANDARD
SUMMARY

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Lab Standard (29 CFR 1910.1450) is designed to enhance the safety of laboratory workers through better information and work practices. As a laboratory employee, you already know that your technical skills are critical to your work. Knowing the hazards of the substances you work with and safe work practices is just as important. The key requirements of the Lab Standard that you should be aware of are as follows:

- You must have access to the Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be available to you.
- You must be informed of the hazardous chemicals present in your laboratory and the operations in which they are involved.
- You must receive adequate training in working with hazardous chemicals.
- Chemical containers and chemical waste must be labeled properly.
- You must know how to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical.
- You must be provided with personal protective equipment (safety glasses, gloves, lab coat, for example).
- You must be provided with engineering controls (fume hood, for example).
- You must receive training in the proper procedures for responding to emergencies.
- You are entitled to a medical consultation, whenever there is an event, such as a spill or leak that increases your risk of chemical exposure.
- If there is reason to believe that the airborne concentration of a hazardous chemical may exceed established exposure limits, air monitoring may be required.
- You must be notified of the results of any air monitoring conducted.
- You are entitled to a copy of established exposure limits for hazardous chemicals.
- You are entitled to a complete copy of the OSHA Lab Standard.

The Harvard University Chemical Hygiene Plan addresses the general hazards of common chemicals that may be present in your laboratory, and describes work practices, procedures and controls which are in place to protect you from those hazards. It is your responsibility to participate in laboratory safety training and to plan and conduct each operation or experiment in accordance with the general safety procedures, or those safety procedures specific to your laboratory or experiment. You should consult with your supervisor, chemical hygiene officer or principal investigator regarding specific safety practices to be used in your laboratory.