



FDNY Laboratory Compliance Checklist

Laboratories in New York City must hold valid permits issued by the FDNY to operate. To verify compliance with FDNY regulations, these facilities are subject to regular inspections by FDNY officials. Below is a checklist of common findings to help ensure your laboratory is prepared for inspections.

Chemical Storage:

- ONLY Store flammable liquids in explosion-proof refrigerators.
- Label peroxide-forming chemicals with dates received, opened, tested, and expired.
- Dispose of expired or compromised chemical containers.
- Segregate chemicals properly to prevent dangerous reactions (refer to segregation chart).
- Do not store glass stock bottles on the floor without secondary containment.
- Store chemical containers upright.
- Keep fume hoods uncluttered.

Compressed Gas Cylinders:

- Secure cylinders with chains or straps.
- Segregate incompatible gases.
- Cap gas cylinders that are NOT in use.

Emergency Equipment and Egress:

- Keep emergency exits and aisles clear.
- Do not block emergency equipment (fire extinguishers, eye washes, safety showers).
- Test eyewashes weekly for pressure and clear flushing water.

Additional FDNY Requirements:

- Have a C-14 Certificate holder present during laboratory operations.
- Post a copy of a C-14 card (with personal info crossed out) on the door.
- Do not keep food or drink for human consumption in laboratories.
- Ensure an oxygen sensor is present if you have 60 gallons (227 Liters) or more of cryogenic liquids. *Contact labsafety@columbia.edu if you don't have an oxygen sensor.*
- Ensure lab curtains are flame-retardant and certified. All IFR curtains should have a tag, if you cannot locate a tag, contact labsafety@columbia.edu.
- Maintain at least 18 inches of clearance between stored items and sprinkler heads.
- Plug large equipment (refrigerators, freezers, etc.) directly into the wall outlets.

Helpful Links:

[Hazardous Waste Pick-up](#)

[Chemical Segregation Chart](#)

[C-14 FAQ Sheet](#)



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Have any questions? Contact labsafety@columbia.edu