

Hazardous Waste Regulatory Inspection Checklist



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have the authority to inspect laboratories to verify compliance with environmental and hazardous waste regulations. To help maintain compliance and ensure laboratories remain inspection-ready at all times, the checklist below outlines key hazardous waste management requirements and best practices.

Laboratory personnel should direct regulatory compliance questions to EH&S and not the inspector to avoid speculating or providing information outside their area of responsibility.

Fundament-L's of Hazardous Waste Management

- ☐ Containers are closed with a tight-fitting lid when not actively in use.
- ☐ All waste components are listed on the label.
- ☐ Correct hazard characteristic is indicated on the label.
- ☐ No abbreviations or chemical formulas are used on labels.
- ☐ Funnels are removed from containers when not in use.
- ☐ Containers have been checked for leaks and damage.



Chemical Storage and Satellite Accumulation Areas (SAAs)

- ☐ All containers are segregated based on compatibility.
- ☐ SAA is clean, organized, and all containers are properly labeled.
- ☐ Hazardous waste is stored at or near the point of generation.
- ☐ Used oil containers are properly labeled with "Used Oil".
- ☐ No chemicals have been disposed of down the drain.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness

- ☐ Safety Data Sheets are available for all chemicals via ChemWatch.
- ☐ Eyewash stations and overhead emergency showers are accessible, unobstructed, and fully operational.

Have any questions? Contact labsafety@columbia.edu



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Hazardous Waste



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