

## **NASA-LaRC March 1997 Safety News**

### **A Publication of the Office of Safety, Environment and Mission Assurance, OSEMA**

#### **Chemical Safety**

There has been recent cases of chemicals being delivered at LaRC without Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) with them. Employees are reminded that Langley Hand Book (LHB) 1710.12, "Potentially Hazardous Materials," defines the requirements for the use of chemicals. The procurement of potentially hazardous material at LaRC shall be documented by completion of NASA Langley Form 44. Approval by the signatories of this form indicates authorization for procurement, either by Electronic Purchase order, or Credit Card purchase. Failure to follow these requirements is a violation of LaRC regulations and could lead to disciplinary action.

If you have any questions concerning the proper procedure to be followed for the purchase or handling of chemicals, please refer to LHB 1710.12. This handbook is incorporated into the LaRC Safety Manual and is available from your Facility Safety Head or Facility Coordinator.

#### **Hazardous Communication**

LaRC's Hazard Communication Plan is an OSHA required program that is for the education of employees regarding chemicals in the workplace. The program involves initial training, a written program (LHB 1710.12) and refresher training. While the initial training and the written programs are in place at LaRC it is important to remember that refresher training is required annually within the facility. Refresher training should include the following areas;

- 1.How to detect the release of hazardous chemicals.
- 2.The hazards of all the chemicals in your work area and the dangers of any job you are required to accomplish.
- 3.How to protect yourself from these dangers.
- 4.The details of the Hazard Communication Program developed by LaRC.

\* This refresher class can be presented to your section by contacting Butch Jones at 48743.

By following the safe work practices explained in your training, and using information from product warning labels and MSDS's, you can keep hazardous chemicals under control in your workplace.

#### **Parts Of The Puzzle**

When working at LaRC you have to remember that there are many players and parts to the puzzle that make the big picture. The topics already mentioned in this newsletter are just a couple parts that bring together a good and safe environment for everyone to work in. Let's look at some of the other parts of the puzzle:

A good working knowledge of how the work environment is affected by your work process.

What the warning indicators are for the various chemicals in use.

A good chemical hygiene plan in place and workers familiar with its content.

An MSDS book which is current and reflects all chemicals in use within your work section.

Have good laboratory safety rules for reducing chemical exposure in the Lab.

Maintain a Hazardous Waste Management Program, that will include:

1. Control of Biohazard Waste.
2. Hazardous Waste Control, Storage, Pickup, and disposal.
3. Properly labeled containers for chemicals, with the contents "characterized" as:

Non-Hazardous

Corrosive

Ignitable

Reactive

Toxic

These are just some of the identifications that are required on the various chemicals.

As you can see there is not just one program or one person that makes our workplace safe, It takes everyone and many different programs working together to keep the puzzle together.

### **Safety Classes Offered**

Just a reminder that the following safety training classes are available to be presented for you at your safety meetings.

Confined Spaces (permit required)

Confined Space Awareness

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Ergonomics (Office or Industrial)

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Heat Stress

Cryogenics

Chemical Safety

General Office Safety

If you would like to setup a class, contact your supervisor and he can schedule by contacting Butch Jones at 48743.