



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
John A. Burns School of Medicine

June 17, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: JABSOM Kaka'ako Biosciences Building Researchers

From: Tavia Shiroma
JABSOM Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO)

Subject: Shared Autoclave Rooms – Complaints and Rules of Usage

EHSO has received several complaints about the conditions of the autoclave rooms. A summary of the complaints follows:

- Un-autoclaved waste sits in the room for days. The smell becomes overwhelming for other users and the room gets crowded. The waste is not labeled so other users don't know who to contact.
- Autoclaved waste sits in the room for weeks. The bags smell and crowd the room. Other researchers end up taking it out to the trash, though it's not their responsibility.
- Leaks or spills are not cleaned up, including liquids, pipet tips, etc. The spills may pose slip hazards, exposure hazards, etc.

At the request of several researchers, EHSO would like to set forth the following rules for the shared use of the autoclave rooms.

- If **UN-AUTOCLAVED WASTE** is stored in the autoclave room awaiting autoclaving:
 - the waste must be labeled with the name and phone number of the responsible individual;
 - the waste may NOT be stored in the room overnight (the waste must be removed and stored in the generator's lab);
 - the waste must be stored in accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-104.1-13 (summarized below).
- **AUTOCLAVED WASTE:**
 - must be promptly removed from the autoclave at the end of the cycle;
 - must be bagged and taken out to the trash compactor or bagged/boxed/labeled and left on the cart outside the autoclave room within 24 hours of autoclaving.

Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-104.1-13 Storage of untreated infectious waste within a generating facility. Infectious waste which is being stored while awaiting treatment shall be stored in disposable or reusable sturdy, leakproof containers that have tight-fitting lids and the containers shall be stored in a fully enclosed, secured room. Both the leakproof containers and the secured room shall be clearly labeled with the Universal Biological Hazard symbol. These containers shall be kept in fully enclosed, secured, and well-ventilated locations which are inaccessible to animals and persons not authorized to handle the treatment, transfer, or disposal of infectious waste.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us at jabsom-ehso@hawaii.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.