

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

1992 - Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens

Standard precautions - All blood, body fluids, and unfixed tissues are to be handled as though they were potentially infectious.

Bloodborne pathogens: hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Hand washing - Most important safety practice. If water is not readily available, alcohol hand gels (**at least 62% alcohol**) may be used.

PPE Outer coverings - Fluid-resistant, long-sleeved, buttoned AT ALL TIMES.

Universal precautions was the original term; OSHA's current terminology is *standard precautions*.

Household bleach

1:10 volume/volume dilution (10%)

10 mL of bleach to 90 mL of water / 1½ cups of bleach to 1 gallon of water

Must be made **fresh daily**.

SPECIMEN RETENTION

Suggested Guidelines for Record and Specimen Retention

Record/Specimen Type	Retention
Requisitions	2 years
Accession logs	2 years
Maintenance/instrument logs	2 years
Quality control records	2 years
Blood bank donor/receipt records	10 years
Blood bank deferred donor records	Indefinitely
Blood bank patient records	10 years
Blood bank employee signatures/initials	10 years
Blood bank QC records	5 years
Clinical pathology test records	2 years
Serum/CSF/body fluids	48 hours
Urine	24 hours
Blood/fluid smears	7 days
Microbiology stained slides	7 days
Wet tissue	2 weeks
Surgical pathology (bone marrow) slides	10 years
Paraffin blocks/slides	10 years
Cytology slides	5 years
FNA slides	10 years
Reports (surgical/cytology/nonforensic)	10 years
Cytogenetic slides	3 years
Cytogenetic reports/images	20 years
Flow cytometry plots/histograms	10 years
Retired Laboratory Procedures	2 years

Fire Extinguishers

Class/Type of Extinguisher	Type of Fire
A	Ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, or paper.
B	Flammable liquids, gases, or grease.
C	Energized (plugged-in) electrical fires. Examples are fires involving equipment, computers, fuse boxes, or circuit breakers.
ABC	Multipurpose for type A, B, and C fires.

Fire Hazard

Fire extinguishers are placed every **75 feet**.

Fire extinguishers should be **checked monthly** and **maintained annually**.

Alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers are tested **every 3 months**.

Chemical Hazard

1990 - Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories

Establishes OSHA guidelines to limit unnecessary exposure to hazardous chemicals. Requires laboratories to develop a **chemical hygiene plan**.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Provide information on the chemicals that cannot be put on a label.

Labeling of chemical includes:

name, conc, prep date, expiration, initials, chemical hazard (poisonous, corrosive, flammable)

Alcohol and other flammable chemicals

Stored at least 5 feet away from a heat source.

Showers and eye wash stations

Should be available **every 100 feet**

29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910

29 CFR 1910.1200 Hazard Communication Standard (right to know)

29 CFR 1910.1030 Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

29 CFR 1910.1450 Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories Standard

29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910 (cont)

29 CFR 1910.132 Personal Protective Equipment

Laboratory-Related Nongovernmental Organizations

The Joint Commission (TJC) Accredits health care organizations and programs in the United States based on a **comprehensive set of quality standards**.

College of American Pathologists (CAP) Offers the largest **proficiency survey program** in the United States.

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Peer professional group that develops **standardized criteria** regarding laboratory practices.

American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Largest organization for laboratory professionals and **offers certification** for various specialties.

American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Offers a **blood bank accreditation program** that can substitute for (but coordinate with) a CAP inspection.



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