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Office of Research & Engagement

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DHS issues guidelines on chemicals

UT EHS will handle campus compliance

On November 20, 2007 the US Department of Homeland Security published a final rule in the Federal Register that affects higher education. This law, entitled Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standard, will require the university to determine if it possesses any "chemicals of interest" (COI). These are substances that could be a target for theft or release onsite by a terrorist.

COIs fall into several hazard categories including highly flammable, explosives, and extremely toxic. Appendix A of the standard includes the COI. A threshold, expressed in mass (lbs. or grams), accompanies each substance found in Appendix A. The minimum concentration for most chemicals on the list is 1%. Many of the chemicals must be present in large quantities (e.g., 5,000 lbs.) to exceed the regulatory threshold. However, some COIs have thresholds as low as 100 grams.

A complete list of the chemicals can be obtained by contacting Environmental Health and Safety at 865-974-5084 or on the web at http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/chemsec_appendix_chemicalofinterestlist.pdf.

What substances are covered?

It is important to note that this standard applies to mixtures, by-products, intermediates and not solely to pure chemicals. Hazardous waste is excluded from the requirements. Chemicals of Interest in concentration of 1% (by weight) or greater must be included, although some substances specify a higher concentration.

Are there any exclusions for laboratories? Yes. However it is not a blanket exemption and there are only certain security categories that are excluded. At this time all laboratories will be included in the standard.

Does this standard apply only to laboratories? No. It applies to all operations under the control of the university.

When does the standard take effect? The standard took effect on November 20, 2007, although facilities have 60 days in which to conduct a survey to determine if any

New faces, empty spaces are the rule in changing UT Office of Research

Don't be surprised if you run across persons in the Office of Research that you don't know. In addition to a new vice chancellor, Brad Fenwick, and a new associate vice chancellor, Greg Reed, several other positions are in various stages of change.

Administrative Coordinator: Donna Doyle left to take a position with the UT Development Office and Jane Taylor will fill the position beginning 6 December 2007. Jane has worked at UT for 25 years and most recently was business manager in the Department Civil & Environmental Engineering.

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Hall is moving to Memphis, TN, in December. A search is under way.

Assistant Coordinator, Sponsored Programs: Open position with search under way.

Assistant Director, Sponsored Programs: Bob Cargile has taken the position as director of research services for the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. A search for his replacement is under way.

Biosafety Officer: Robin Trundy has taken a position with Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, OH. A search is under way.

Biosafety Associate: Brian Ranger left the position to attend graduate school fulltime. A search is under way.

Business Manager, Research Centers Business Office: Carol Hatmaker has taken a position as business manager with the Center for Transportation Research. A search is being formed.

Data Entry Specialist: Open position with a search under way.

Director, Research Centers Business Office: Don Reed has taken a position as budget director for the Joint Institute for Computational Sciences. A search is being formed.

Web Designer: A new position with a search nearing completion.

With this many position changes occurring simultaneously, there may be some rough spots in maintaining continuity of services but we are trying our best to provide timely, quality services. If in doubt about whom to contact, call 865-974-3466 or e-mail research@utk.edu.

of the COIs are onsite. A report, called a Top Screen, must be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security within 60 days, which will be January 19, 2008. The university will request a 60-day extension to complete the survey.

Which department or group at UT will oversee compliance in this area? Environmental Health and Safety will lead this effort.

Questions should be directed to one of the following individuals: Mark Smith (4-5084), Chuck Payne (4-5084), or Susan Fiscor (Ag Campus – 4-4904).

Do the thresholds for COI apply to the entire campus or individual buildings? Each institution has the choice of reporting by building or the entire campus.

What should be done? 1. Make sure your chemical inventory is up to date. All chemical inventories should be updated at least once per year. Submit the updated inventory to Pam Koontz at Environmental Health and Safety (phone 4-5084 or pjkoontz@utk.edu). 2. Compare

your updated chemical inventory to the list of COI.

Are there any future requirements? Yes. After the Top Screen report is submitted to DHS, they may require that we develop security plans to address COI that exceed their respective thresholds. Also, if UT comes into possession of any of the COI above the threshold levels, it must be reported to DHS within 60 days.

From a broad perspective up-to-date chemical inventories will become more important. In addition, a mechanism must be developed to flag COI when they are purchased.

Web woes

If you are having trouble with broken links or other issues with the Office of Research web site, please contact Lesli Rowan (rowanoak@utk.edu, 974-9310) for assistance.

*UT Office of Research Policy Statement***Internal deadlines for proposals will be strictly enforced****Research Colleagues,**

Please make note of the announcement below that the Office of Research is implementing a firm internal deadline for submission of proposals for review and approval. Treat this just like a funding agency deadline -- if it is late, it is rejected. We need this policy to help ensure that every proposal meets all the requirements of UT and the funding agency to improve the opportunity for success (we have an extensive checklist). A proposal that has required elements missing, incorrect or incomplete is less likely to get an award. Also it is unfair to researchers who turn their proposal in on time and want to get a thorough review to get bumped into last-minute review because other researchers waited until the last minute to submit. This becomes a perpetual cycle of last minute reviews even for those who submit on time. This is not good practice and does not enhance quality improvements. So put the following deadlines into your proposal preparation schedule. Thank you.

Effective 1 November 2007, electronic proposals must be received by the Office of Research five (5) business days before the proposal deadline date. This includes the proposal itself, the fully signed Document Review/Approval Sheet, any cost-sharing request if applicable, supporting documentation from proposed subcontractors, and a copy of the solicitation. NOTE: If submitting an unsolicited proposal to the National Institutes of Health, please furnish only the URL for

the solicitation. All parts of the proposal except the proposal narrative must be in final form at that time. A PI can continue to refine the draft proposal narrative, but it must be received in final form by the Office of Research two (2) full business days before the proposal deadline date. If the proposal is to be submitted via Grants.gov, please e-mail your application package to utkegrants@utk.edu.

The reason we must receive the proposal within these time frames is threefold: (1) certain federal sponsors that use Grants.gov for electronic proposal submission have instituted a maximum 48-hour window for us to correct and resubmit any proposal that has errors, (2) if we are a subcontractor to another entity, e.g. another university, we must upload and transmit our application both to Grants.gov and to the other entity, so the other entity will have time to meet the 48-hour window, (3) as more and more federal agencies move to electronic submission through Grants.gov, it has become evident that more time is required to adequately review and ensure timely submission. Not only can each application have different required forms, but each agency may require different layout and presentation of materials that can cause rejection after submission.

Proposals submitted to agencies by paper rather than electronically must be received by the Office of Research three (3) business days before the proposal deadline.

Greg Reed

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

Applications being accepted for '08 faculty achievement, professional promise awards

Two programs that traditionally recognize faculty of UT Knoxville have been announced for 2008. The Research and Creative Achievement Awards will recognize four faculty with more than 10 years of professional experience who have received national or international recognition for their research, scholarly, and creative activities. The Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Awards will recognize four junior faculty who have won attention for their work and show professional promise. Both award programs include a \$3,000 award and recognition at the annual Chancellor's Honors Banquet.

Deadlines for both awards are **28 January 2007 at 12:00 noon**. Please send an original and 10 copies to Research Awards Committee, 1534 White Ave., Campus 1529, Attn.: Jane Taylor.

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Deadline for CSREES preproposals is noon, 10 Dec 07

An internal competition is under way for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's International Science and Education Competitive Grants program. Only two ISE proposals can be submitted from UT as accredited. See <http://utresearchlog.blogspot.com> for full details.

New award supports research in Friedreich's ataxia

The American Heart Association and the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance have initiated a joint research award for investigators conducting research related to Friedreich's ataxia and cardiology. The award is limited to "beginning grant-in-aid" and "grant-in-aid" applicants. For more information, see <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3041239>.

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