

GENERAL WRITTEN SOP -- Shock-Sensitive or Explosive Materials

The OSHA Laboratory Standard explicitly requires "standard operating procedures relevant to safety and health considerations to be followed when laboratory work involves the use of hazardous chemicals." If the general SOP in this section do not fulfill this requirement, you must amend and append in some manner so as to comply

Special Precautions for Working with Shock-Sensitive or Explosive Materials: *Shock-sensitive/explosive materials are substances or mixtures which can spontaneously release large amounts of energy under normal conditions, or when struck, vibrated, or otherwise agitated. Some materials become increasingly shock-sensitive with age and/or loss of moisture. The inadvertent formation of shock-sensitive/explosive materials such as peroxides, perchlorates, picrates and azides is of great concern in the laboratory. A list of some shock-sensitive materials appears in Appendix C.*

1. Contact the Laboratory Safety Manager (953-1067) and EHS (953-4816) when work with shock-sensitive or explosive materials is planned or when it is suspected that the inadvertent formation of shock-sensitive materials in ductwork, piping, or chemicals being stored has occurred.
2. Date all containers of explosive or shock-sensitive materials upon receipt and when opened. Unless an inhibitor has been added, unopened shock-sensitive materials should be discarded within 12 months after receipt. Open containers of shock-sensitive materials should be discarded within 6 months of the date opened.
3. Use the minimum amount of materials necessary for a procedure. Keep a minimum amount of material on hand.
4. If there is a chance of explosion, use barriers or other methods for isolating the materials or the process.