Best Management Practice
Environmental Fact Sheet

Fume Hood Ventilation

Audience:	University personal in laboratories
Campus Covered:	All
EHS Contact:	Stefan Wawzyniecki
Reg. Citations:	OSHA lab Standard
Last Revised:	March 30, 2000

- Laboratory ventilation should be sufficient such that no one is overexposed to chemical vapors. Work involving toxic chemicals that have low air concentration limits, or that have high vapor pressures, should always be done in a fume hood.
- Fume hoods should provide 100 linear feet per minute of air flow across the face of the hood. EH&S will evaluate hoods on request, and on a continuing scheduled basis.

Laboratory employees should understand the following:

- A fume hood is a safety backup for condensers, traps, or other devices that collect vapors and fumes.
- Any apparatus inside the hood shall be placed on the table/floor of the hood, at least six inches away from the front edge.
- Fume hood windows should be lowered at all times, except when necessary to raise them to adjust the apparatus that is inside the hood.
- The hood fan should be kept "on" whenever a chemical is inside the hood, whether or not any work is being done in the hood.
- Personnel should be aware of the steps to be taken in the event of a power failure or other hood failure.
- Hoods shall not be used as a storage area for chemicals, apparatus, or other materials.