

Introduction

The University has vast variety of chemicals that are used for both teaching and research. Some of the chemicals are highly regulated and therefore safety and compliance requirements must be met.

Regulatory Requirements and Consequences

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic) section 21(2)(b) requires employers, so far as is reasonably practicable, safety and the absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage or transport of plant or substances.

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic) section 21(2)(b) requires employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, safety and the absence of risks to health associated with the use, handling, storage or transport of plant or substances. Additionally, extensive reference to legislations that govern chemical management is available in the [Chemical Management Guidelines](#).

Failure to be comply with the regulations can lead to consequences such as prosecution. As an example, recently a health organisation was found guilty for failing to provide a safe system of work in managing their scheduled poison and was fined \$400,000.

License and Permit

Prior to purchasing a chemical, ensure that the chemical is not a restricted item or if it requires a license or permit. Chemicals that require license/permit are:

- scheduled carcinogen substances
- drugs, poisons and controlled substances
- radioactive chemicals
- agricultural and veterinary chemicals and fertilisers

Storage and Access

Regulated chemicals must be stored in secured place and access to be restricted. Some chemicals require access only by qualified personnel (eg a registered veterinary practitioner, or after the person has completed the chemical or safe radiation practices training). Additionally, physical restrictions to these chemicals may be required, (eg some controlled substances must be stored in a locked cupboard and a log book must be used to monitor the use of the chemical).

Disposal

Regarding disposal of regulated chemicals, there are specific procedures to follow (eg managing radioactive waste is by either dilution and dispersion, delay and decay or concentration and containment prior to disposing). Destruction of schedule 8 and 9 poisons must comply with Regulation 115 of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulation 2017* (Vic).

Additional Safety Requirements

Additional safety requirement must be adhered such as by segregating with other incompatible chemicals or if the chemical becomes unstable over time.

For further support in managing regulated chemicals, please contact your local [Health and Safety Business Partner](#) or email safety-chemical@unimelb.edu.au