

Chemical Transport Policy

Virginia Tech Chemistry Department

This policy was enacted by the Chemistry Department Safety Committee and approved by the Department Chair on October 24, 2006.

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of personnel transporting chemicals and anyone who might be affected by a problem occurring during such transport. The policy also helps to shield stockroom personnel from undue liability. No exceptions to this policy will be tolerated.

2. All chemicals transported within or from the Chemistry Department must be in secondary containers approved by the Safety Committee.

a. "Chemicals" includes commercially prepared materials in their original containers or dispensed into another container, as well as chemically or physically produced reaction intermediates, products, or samples.

b. "Transported" refers to the movement of chemical material:

- (i) between buildings, whether outside or through tunnels or walkways,
- (ii) between labs, through hallways, and via elevators or stairways,
- (iii) leaving the stockroom,
- (iv) or through any general personnel (public) space.

b. "Secondary containers" may include

- (i) plastic paint buckets with tight-fitting lids and secure handles,
- (ii) Nalgene buckets with tight-fitting lids,
- (iii) Approved rubber buckets with handles,
- (iv) Original shipping boxes with foam inserts or packing material.

3. In addition to all regular members of the chemistry department, anyone retrieving chemicals from the stockroom, whether a member of the department or not, is subject to this policy. The stockroom will not dispense chemicals or allow chemicals to leave the stockroom without the chemicals being in approved secondary containers.

4. Bottles small enough to fall over inside secondary containers should have absorbent packing material around them to keep them upright.

5. Analytical samples (e.g., NMR samples) may be carried in glass or plastic secondary containers (e.g., Erlenmeyer flasks).

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6. Metal cans (standard ether cans, 20-L solvent cans, Just-Rite solvent dispensers) and chemicals in a commercial over-pack do not require secondary containers. All refillable containers must be properly labeled.

7. Liquid nitrogen dewars, compressed gas cylinders, and lecture bottles do not require secondary containers. Dry ice may be transported in a single, sturdy, insulated container.

8. Personnel should have one free hand for navigating stairways, operating elevator buttons, and maintaining balance to prevent slips and falls. Those who find themselves needing to occupy both hands to carry their chemicals should use a cart to transport their chemicals.

9. Personnel removing chemicals from the stockroom will be required to notify the stockroom staff if they intend to transport chemicals anywhere other than Hahn, Davidson, or Chemistry Physics. Individuals intending to remove chemicals from within these three buildings must sign an affidavit indicating that they are aware of university policies on chemical transport and, in particular, that if they transport chemicals in a vehicle they may be subject to VDOT transport regulations.