## University of Washington Department of Chemistry

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

## **CARCINOGEN - BENZENE**

1. PROCESS	Use of benzene (in addition to other compounds) is strictly regulated under Washiongton Administrative Code (WAC 296-62-07523)
2. HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS/CLASS OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS	Benzene is flammable and carcinogenic! PEL's TWA (8 hrs): 1ppm, STEL (15 min): 5 ppm Action level (8 hrs): 0.5 ppm
3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	Chemical spash goggles and gloves must be worn to prevent eye contact and limit dermal exposure. A lab coat or apron is recommended for personal protection and is required when dispensing or cleaning up spill quantities of 50ml or greater.
4. ENGINEERING\VENTILATION CONTROLS	Benzene containg solutions should be dispensed and used only in a fume hood.
5. SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS	Mixing or dispensing should be done in a hood with all sources of ignition eliminated (hot plates, burners etc.). Store in metal safety cans whenever possible. Benzene in glass containers over 1L should be transported in spill proof carriers. Benzene should be stored in appropriate flammable cabinets, with other flammable solvents, separate from non-compatible chemicals.
6. SPILL AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES	If skin is exposed, wash imediately with soap and water. Use emergency shower in case of large exposure. Wipe down spill area with solvent absorbent pads. SPills greater than 50ml should be referred to EH&S at 3-0467. After clean-up, room air must be checked and monitored.
7. WASTE DISPOSAL	Plase used absorbent pads in metal can with leak proof lid. Overpack with additional unused absorbtion pads. Seal can and label with "Hazardous Waste" label and contact Environmental health and Safety (5-2848) for collection.
8. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR ANIMAL USE	*

<sup>\*</sup>To be filled in by PI or Laboratory Supervisor if necessary

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