University of Washington Department of Chemistry

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

MERCURY

1. PROCESS	Mercury handling - manometers, thermometers, etc. Other processes used in this lab are: *
2. HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS/CLASS OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS	Metallic mercury at elevated temperatures, i.e., drying ovens. water baths, incubators, etc. will vaporize and may reach concentrations which could impair your health.
3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	Safety glasses, gloves, and a lab coat is recommended for personal protection and required during dispensing and spill clean-up activities.
4. ENGINEERING\VENTILATION CONTROLS	Use fume hood for mercury waste storage
5. SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS	Use of an unbreakable container is recommended when transporting thermometers or other mercury containing equipment. Dispense mercury in a pan with raised edges to contain spilled materials.
6. SPILL AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES	Spills less than 5ml should be cleaned up according to the instructions in the mercury spill clean-up kit which can be obtained from the Research Storeroom, 36 Bagley Hall. A mercury vacuum may also be used (check it out from the UG Stockroom, 271 Bagley). Instructions are attached to the machine. Users should receive specialized training regarding proper use of the unit prior to their first use. Call Environmental Health and Safety (3-0467) for spills greater than 5ml, spills in ovens, water baths or incubators or to verify the cleanliness of an area after clean-up.
7. WASTE DISPOSAL	Place mercury and contaminated materials, such as broken glass, into a screw capped plastic container. Label with 'Hazardous Waste Label' and contact Environmental Health and Safety (5-2848) for collection.
8. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR ANIMAL USE	*

^{*} To be filled in by PI or Laboratory Supervisor