### Generic Controls for the Storage of Dangerous Goods

**Category** | **Specific Requirements**
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**Ventilation** | • Adequate ventilation shall be provided for package storage and handling areas.
• Adequate ventilation depends on the nature of the substance and the circumstances of its use.

**First Aid** | • The occupier shall provide an adequate first aid kit and appropriate personal protection equipment. Reference should be made to the material safety data sheet (SDS) for the substance being kept.

**Security & Access** | • Each laboratory must be secured against unauthorised access.
• The means of entry into and exit from the areas, rooms or buildings where dangerous goods are kept or handled shall be kept clear at all times.
• At all times, access shall also be available to—
  + fire fighting equipment;
  + personal protective equipment;
  + clean-up materials and equipment; and
  + the place where the dangerous goods manifest is kept.

**Communications** | • Each laboratory must have a phone and contact details for emergency response.

**Lighting** | • There must be adequate lighting in any area where dangerous goods are stored or handled.

**Emergency Requirements** | • An adequate supply of water for emergency use shall be available at a nearby location.
• A fire extinguisher of suitable type shall be installed in each minor store. It shall be located so that it is immediately accessible in an emergency, along an exit route.
• Dangerous goods can present the following hazards in a fire:
  + They may give off vapours, fumes or smoke, which may be flammable, toxic or corrosive, or may form flammable mixtures in the air.
  + Flammable or oxidising dangerous goods may intensify or spread the fire.
  + Spilled substances and contaminated debris may be toxic to the environment.
  + Containers may rupture violently, or become projectiles, when heated.
  + Some substances may react violently with water or other chemicals, causing the substances to be sprayed over a wide area.
  + The mixing of spilt or fire-affected substances may have unknown properties and consequences.
  + Contaminated water run-off from fires may present a hazard to persons and the environment.

**Containers & Decanting** | • The contents of a container shall not be transferred to any other container for storage unless the latter is suitable for the storage of this
### Category Specific Requirements

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| **Storage & Segregation**             | - Any materials that are incompatible, or might react dangerously if mixed, shall be segregated so that the possibility of reaction is minimised.  
  - Interpreting the Dangerous Goods Regulation Section 89, a cabinet can not be located in the same room as another, if the dangerous goods kept in the cabinets are incompatible. This will have a major impact on current practice at UNSW. |
| **Spills**                            | - All spills and leaks from containers shall be attended to promptly. Spilled or leaked material shall not be returned to its original container.  
  - Every endeavour shall be made to prevent leaks or spills, and to control them if they do occur; clean-up action shall be initiated immediately. Leaked or spilled materials shall be kept segregated from other waste and disposed properly.  
  - **NOTE**: Entry into the affected area should always be under supervision. For dealing with spills, the following are essential:  
    - Clean-up materials and equipment  
    - An adequate supply of water (if the dangerous goods are compatible with water).  
    - Appropriate personal protective clothing equipment shall be used. |
| **All Dangerous Goods Cabinets**      | - Cabinets shall be located not less than 3 m from any source of heat that could affect the cabinet or its contents.  
  - Where cabinets are installed in a building —  
    - irrespective of the occupancy of the building, not more than one cabinet shall be installed in each 100 m² of building area, and the separation distance between any two cabinets shall be not less than 3 m;  
    - the cabinets shall be so located in relation to exits and stairways that they will not impede the escape of persons in the event of fire; and  
    - cabinets shall be located near a provision for the washing of hands.  
  - Cabinets kept out-of-doors shall be protected from the weather.  
  - Dangerous goods requiring special storage conditions (eg. temperature control) shall not be kept in a minor store.  
  - When calculating the floor area, use only the area of the current floor of... |
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| Personal Protective Equipment | • *The head of the work unit where dangerous goods are stored* will ensure that all persons on the premises are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment;  
• keep personal protective equipment in designated, well-identified locations and ready for use; and  
• maintain, in a fit state of repair, all personal protective equipment. |

Reference AS 3833:98 “The Storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods…..”