

## December 2015

It is getting close to the end of year shutdown, please ensure that if you are coming to site that you have your after-hours/lone working buddy arrangements in place, as per our article in the [November newsletter](#).

In other news we now have a new email address to reflect the move away from the term "OHS"; you can contact us at [safety@unsw.edu.au](mailto:safety@unsw.edu.au).



## GHS labelling update

Chemical containers that have [NOHSC compliant](#) labels should not need to be re-labelled to be compliant with GHS requirements. The Regulator plans to amend the WHS Regulation 2011 next year to confirm it is the responsibility of manufacturers and suppliers to classify and label commercially supplied chemicals.

Once the plans come into effect any container with a currently compliant label can remain as is without needing any amendment or additions of GHS label elements. Any container not meeting NOHSC standards will need to be relabelled, so this is an opportunity to dispose of any very old containers. Containers purchased or created from 1 January 2017 must be GHS compliant (start ensuring that your suppliers are doing this already and do not accept non-GHS labelled containers from them).



## UNSW Canberra Health

The ACT government Healthier Work Initiative recognised UNSW Canberra for its commitment to health and wellness by awarding them with a healthier work certificate. UNSW Canberra is committed to focusing on a range of activities over the next 12 months including substituting desserts with fruit for all meetings and seminars and introducing flex time for staff members to use for physical activity. Pictured is the Deputy Rector UNSW Canberra at ADFA along with the Health, Safety and Facilities team. For more information see the ACT [Healthier Work](#) website.



## UNSW Office chairs

UNSW has an approved chair supplier who offers a wide range of seating with negotiated pricing; all models are available on a 4-6 week lead time with a 7 year warranty.

Sturdy Framac can provide an ergonomic assessment with seating recommendations. Additionally, a 5-day chair trial can also be arranged. Sturdy will remove existing defective seating and recycle at a cost of \$10/unit.

Contact [sales@sturdy.com.au](mailto:sales@sturdy.com.au) for quotes and trial chair requests. Contact [Lance Spouszta](#) for site visits and ergonomic assessments. For specialist ergonomic assessments, including in response to an injury or disability, contact [UNSW Health and Safety](#).

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## Ticks awareness

If you are working outdoors in tick areas please ensure that you are aware of the latest advice on how to avoid and treat tick bites.

You must kill ticks before removing them. Small ticks can be killed using permethrin cream, large ticks by freezing with ether-containing spray (available at pharmacies). See [video](#) on how to remove a tick.

To prevent the injection of possible allergen, toxin or disease vectors into you, use narrow curved tweezers to remove it without squeezing the body.

Reactions to tick bites can range from minor (swelling) to severe (anaphylaxis) or delayed (mammalian meat allergy). For more information see [ASCIA](#) and [TIARA](#).

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## Emergency shower testing

Australian Standards require emergency showers and eye wash stations to have their water flushed on a weekly basis. However UNSW has completed a risk assessment to determine that a monthly water activation of in-doors showers and weekly activation of eye washes is sufficient given the facilities on campus. Please refer to [UNSW-UNSW-RMF-2817](#). This document also has an attachment which can be used to log your water activation tests. However, local areas are free to carry out a more frequent activation regime if risks in the area warrant it.

For further details refer to Australian Standard 4775-2007 Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment.

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## Spill station sign

A new template [spill station sign](#) is now available on the UNSW Health and Safety website. You can use this within your lab to clearly indicate where your spill kit is located and the type of spill it is designed for. The template can be altered to make it specific to your location and spill kit type.

See our [Procedures and Forms](#) page and search for keyword "spill" to find all resources available.

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## Slip Trip Fall

If you identify a slip, trip, fall hazard please report this to FM Assist on Extension 55111 or email [FMAssist@unsw.edu.au](mailto:FMAssist@unsw.edu.au).

Be vigilant and report in order to get trip hazards out of our environment.

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## Overseas testing for animal diseases

Should your lab wish to test for animal pathogens that are not known to be present in the state, or to send samples for such testing to an overseas lab, you must first seek approval from the state Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). Refer to the [Policy for the Transfer of Biological Specimens to Overseas Laboratories for Infectious and Parasitic Disease Testing](#) and a recent reminder [letter from the Australian CVO](#) to UNSW.

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## Audit results

Each year a number of schools and units in UNSW are subject to a health and safety audit by an external auditor. This is a requirement of our self-insurance licence and outlined in the [audit procedure](#). Thanks and well done to all schools who participated and scored high marks, maintaining a strong Health and Safety Management System. The schools audited in 2015 were:

- School of Materials Science and Engineering: 92%
  - School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences: 96%
  - School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering: 93%
  - Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering: 94%
  - Art and Design: 87%
  - School of Medical Sciences (Lowy Level 3 and Anatomy): 95%
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## Lessons learnt

If you have a good health or safety initiative and share it with us we may develop it into a UNSW-wide process for everyone to benefit from. A group in Engineering drove the development of the new standard spill kit sign and the generic risk management form for frequency of emergency shower eye wash testing. A group from Medicine drove improvements and changes to chemical waste management. A group from Science helped to develop processes for SciQuest ERM. Several areas have improved our website by providing feedback on content and broken links.

The lesson learnt is that your idea can be heard and implemented. Contact your [Health and Safety Coordinator](#) or email [safety@unsw.edu.au](mailto:safety@unsw.edu.au) with any ideas for improvements or system changes.

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