

# FOOD AND DRINK IN LABS — REGULATIONS & STANDARDS OF CARE

## REGULATIONS:

### **OSHA's Sanitation Standard - 29CFR1910.141**

"(g) Consumption of food and beverages on the premises. . . .

(2) Eating and drinking areas. - No employee shall be allowed to consume food or beverages in a toilet room nor in any area exposed to a toxic material."

### **OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard - 29CFR1910.1030**

"(d) Methods of Compliance.- . . .

(ix) Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.

(x) Food and drink shall not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets or on countertops or bench tops where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.

## LICENSING REQUIREMENT(S):

### **Radioactive Material User's Guide — Rules for Use of Radioactive Material**

"Eating, drinking, smoking, the application of cosmetics or other similar activities which could lead to the uptake of radiation contamination are prohibited in areas where unsealed radioactive materials are being used".

**NOTE:** These rules must be followed by all users of radioactive materials due to a condition in our broad license.

## STANDARDS OF CARE:

### **National Research Council's Prudent Practices in the Laboratory, 1995.**

#### **"5.C.2.2 Avoiding Ingestion of Hazardous Chemicals**

Eating, drinking, smoking, gum chewing, applying cosmetics, and taking medicine in laboratories where hazardous chemicals are used should be strictly prohibited. Food, beverages, cups, and other drinking and eating utensils should not be stored in areas where hazardous chemicals are handled or stored. Glassware used for laboratory operations should never be used to prepare or consume food or beverages. Laboratory refrigerators, ice chests, cold rooms, ovens, and so forth should not be used for food storage or preparation. Laboratory water sources and deionized laboratory water should not be used for drinking water.

#### **5E-1 Biohazardous Materials**

Never eat, drink, smoke, handle contact lenses, apply cosmetics, or take or apply medicine in the laboratory.

#### **5E-2 Radioactive Materials**

Never eat, drink, smoke, handle contact lenses, apply cosmetics, or take or apply medicine in the laboratory, and keep food, drinks, cosmetics, and tobacco products out of the laboratory entirely so that they cannot become contaminated.

## **CDC/NIH Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories**

“Standard Microbiological Practices” for ALL Biosafety Level 1- Level 4 labs include the following:

3. Eating, drinking, smoking, handling contact lenses, and applying cosmetics are not permitted in the work areas where there is reasonable likelihood of exposure to potentially infectious materials. Food is stored outside the work area in cabinets or refrigerators designated for this purpose only.

## **OSHA's Occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in laboratories - 29CFR1910.1450 Appendix A - National Research Council Recommendations (1981) Concerning Chemical Hygiene in Laboratories (Non-Mandatory)**

“E. Basic Rules for Working with Chemicals

1. General Rules

(D) Eating Smoking, etc.: Avoid eating, drinking, smoking, gum chewing, or application of cosmetics in areas where laboratory chemicals are present; wash hands before conducting these activities.

Avoid storage, handling, or consumption of food or beverages in storage areas, refrigerators, glassware or utensils which are also used for laboratory operations.