

Food and Drink In Labs Survey — Oct. 1998

The following information was supplied by various researchers (not the institution's EHS office) to the University of Louisville Vice Dean for Research at our Health Sciences Center Campus. Our Vice Dean for Research provided these responses to U of L DEHS in an attempt to get us to look at allowing some food and drink in designated labs or lab areas.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Allowed/ Not Allowed</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1) Wayne State	Not allowed	Strict policy against food & drink in lab areas. EHS has allowed investigators to designate non-lab area outside office or cordon off part of lab
2) Vanderbilt	Allowed	Even in radiation labs. Only 3H and 14C are used in lab where food is consumed. RSO designates H, M and L danger. Things are in the process of changing with EHS office reorganization.
3) Purdue	Allowed*	Allowed <u>if</u> no radioactive material is <u>used</u> in lab. Could also use if only stored (i.e. cold box).
4) SUNY Buffalo	No clear policy	Labs have coffee pots and cold boxes used to store food and drink even though their new research bldg. has a kitchen on each floor.
5) Univ. of Kansas	Not allowed	Strict policy against food and drink consumption or storage in a lab area where "wet work" is performed. Emphasized annually at mandatory safety meeting.

The following information was compiled from Vermont SIRI archives by U of L DEHS.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Allowed/Not Allowed</u>	<u>Comments</u>
6) Washington U.	Allowed in designated areas	OSHA attempted to cite WU Medical School in early 90's. Worked w/ OSHA to areas w/ signs designate "clean" areas where chemicals were not allowed and signs were installed. Strict OSHA requirement from inspection to properly mark areas as "allowed" and "not allowed". NOTE: Per new EHS Director, Bruce Backus, this practice was curtailed because it was too difficult to manage.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Allowed/ Not Allowed</u>	<u>Comments</u>
7) Oak Ridge Nat'l Lab	See comments	"Line mgmt. Should set their own practices based own their own labs". DOE prohibits food in radiation and carcinogen control areas. Also, possibly microbiological agents. Few chemicals pose threat by ingestion when hygiene is good. Review safety in lab before allowing food & drink.
8) Lab Safety	Not allowed	"Against the law" see 29 CFR1910.141 Workshop (g) 2 — sanitation. Allowing food and drink is contrary to good practice as defined by ACS and NSTA.
9) Rochester Inst.	Unknown	Eating in labs is bad practice. Duty of care, of Technology prudent practices should be followed even if specific laws don't exist.
10) Creighton Univ. Green State	Unknown	Cited 29 CFR 1910.1450 App. A & Bowling "Avoid eating, drinking, etc. in areas where lab chemicals are present". Non-mandatory but held as standard of care.

NOTE: Follow-up phone call to Lance Franklin, Wayne State's EHS Director. Wayne State's Bio-Engineering Department was inspected by Michigan OSHA and was cited for eating and drinking in the lab (under Bloodborne pathogen standard). The original citation was for \$5,000 but is was eventually downgraded to \$2,500.