



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Environmental Health *and* Safety

EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

1. Assessment versus Monitoring –

Exposure assessment is that portion of the exposure evaluation performed by the laboratory supervisor which involves a judgment based on materials being used, the manner of their use, and personal knowledge of the procedures being performed. Exposure monitoring is that portion of exposure evaluation performed by the CHO, or other persons trained in industrial hygiene sampling techniques, which involves gathering data with direct or indirect reading instruments or equipment. Both methods evaluate employee exposure to some contaminant, with assessment being used as the screening method to determine if monitoring is necessary.

2. Assessment Procedures –

An initial assessment of all laboratory procedures should be performed using the attached checklist. It may include such factors as the amounts and characteristics of the materials used, the frequency and duration of use, and the effectiveness of engineering controls and protective equipment. No exposure monitoring is indicated if laboratory employee exposures to substance(s) regulated by OSHA do not exceed the action level or PEL specified in 29 CFR 1910 subpart Z. Exposure monitoring would be indicated when there is reason to believe exposure levels for the substance(s) used in the areas indicated routinely exceed the action level or PEL.

EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST	YES	NO
1. Is the procedure performed in a closed system?		
2. Can the procedure be performed inside a lab hood or other containment?		
3. Is the lab hood performing to established standards?		
4. If the substance is highly toxic, is it handled fewer than three times per week, for less than an hour per occurrence?		
5. Have all employees remained free of any of the signs or symptoms associated with overexposure to the substance?		
6. Does historical monitoring data indicate acceptable exposure levels?		
7. Does the written procedure address required personal protective equipment, emergency equipment and actions, work practices, and housekeeping?		
8. Is personal protective equipment appropriate to the hazard?		
<u>If you answered 'NO' to any of these questions, contact the CHO for further evaluation to be performed.</u>		