Colleagues,

As you know, there is a UCOP Policy for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that establishes the minimum attire requirements (long pants and closed toe/heel shoes) for entering a laboratory where the use or storage of hazardous materials occurs or a physical hazard exists. Additional PPE including lab coats, safety eyewear, or other items may be required based on the activities being conducted in the laboratory.

We are aware that there are a few circumstances where the minimum requirements are difficult to meet. Consequently, the campus Chemical and Laboratory Safety Committee (CLSC) has developed a procedure for requesting an exception and the attached describes the process for requesting, approving, maintaining, and posting a “PPE Exception” for entering a UC Davis Laboratory or Technical Area.

The following are examples of situations where a PPE Exception may be granted using the CLSC procedure. Note that these descriptions are illustrative only and are not binding determinations — all PPE Exceptions must be ultimately approved by the EH&S Director:

1. Non-hazardous work areas (e.g., offices, work stations) within laboratories or technical areas and clearly delineated by physical barriers (e.g., walls, doors, and/or cubicle dividers). It must be clear that the area is intended to be a self-contained, dedicated area. Readily movable furniture does not constitute a physical barrier. These areas must be reachable without passing in close proximity (i.e., less than 2 meters) to hazardous chemical storage or use areas or to equipment posing physical hazards (e.g., pressurized devices, extreme temperature, high rotation speed equipment, etc.).

2. Corridors within laboratories or technical areas that do not pass near any potential source of hazard. A clear, open, and free horizontal distance of at least 2 meters from hazardous chemical storage or use areas (e.g., chemical fume hoods, laboratory benches, etc.) or equipment posing physical hazards (e.g., pressurized devices, extreme temperature, high rotation speed equipment, etc.) may be considered adequate.

For the overall safety of our community, including visitors and students, it is expected that exceptions will be rare. Please note that inconvenience, infrequent hazardous operations, and difficulty of assuring compliance with the policy are generally not sufficient justifications for the exception.

Best regards,

Research Community Coordinator