

Beaumont Laboratory
Royal Oak • Troy • Grosse Pointe

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Supersedes:
Related Documents:
BL.SA.SM.014 Personal Protective
Measures

CONTACT LENS POLICY

BL.SA.SM.015.r00

Purpose

To outline the policy of the Beaumont Laboratory regarding personnel who wear contact lenses.

Policy

While it is permitted for employees to wear contact lenses, it is the Laboratory Safety Committee's recommendation that contact lenses not be worn while working with chemicals in the laboratory.

Contact Lens Dangers

If an employee chooses to disregard this recommendation and wears contact lenses while working in the laboratory, they should be aware of the dangers of doing so. It is possible, even when wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), that damage to the eyes can occur when contact lenses are worn. Chemicals and/or chemical vapors can get trapped between contact lenses and the eye and cause damage to the eye, including blindness. Eye washes are not designed to remove items from eyes where contact lenses are present, and are not as effective at removing chemicals and thus permanent damage may still occur.

PPE

For employees wearing contact lenses, tight fitted, chemical indirect vented goggles must be worn. Face shields ***in addition to*** goggles can provide further protection.

Chemical Exposure

In the event of a chemical exposure via splash or irritation:

- Remove contact lens(es).
- Use eyewash immediately.
- Seek emergency assistance if necessary.
- Notify supervisor.

References

- *Contact Lens Use in a Chemical Environment*. Current Intelligence Bulletin. National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH. DHHS Publication Number 2005-139. June 2005. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-139/pdfs/2005-139.pdf>
- Hazard Assessment/Personal Protective Equipment. MIOSHA. GISHD-ADM-07.5. November 20, 2007.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Authorized Reviewers

This procedure is monitored by the Beaumont Laboratory Safety Committee.

Laboratory Safety Officer

Chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Beaumont Laboratory Medical Directors, Grosse, Pointe, Royal Oak, Troy, West Bloomfield

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