

Radiation Safety Office

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1. This is a statement of policy related to the use of Liquid Scintillation Cocktails (LSC). Radioactive samples containing low energy radiation emitters are commonly immersed in LSC and measured in a liquid scintillation counter. The resultant wastes are radioactive, but the stock materials and wastes may also be chemically hazardous depending on the type of LSC used.
2. The intent of this policy is to eliminate the use of hazardous LSC and the generation of associated "mixed" hazardous and radioactive waste.
3. Most modern LSC formulations (non hazardous LSC) are based on fluids which are considered to be non hazardous and which have a high flash point. Older LSC formulations (hazardous LSC) are based on solvents such as Xylene or Toluene which are hazardous and readily flammable, and which are regulated by the EPA and State equivalents, and by the Fire Department. Hazardous LSC may be identified by the product labeling and from the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer.
4. Hazardous LSC whether purchased or prepared locally, will not be used or stored. Non hazardous LSC may be used and stored.
5. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis by the Radiation Safety Office only when it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable technical alternative, and provided that disposal arrangements can be made. However, investigators will be charged for all associated disposal costs.
6. The brand of LSC must be identified on the tag when any LSC waste is delivered for disposal, or it will not be accepted.
7. The Radiation Safety Department will accept non hazardous LSC waste for disposal during scheduled hours or by arrangement without charge.