

Dear Sir or Madam,

The SSHE (Safety, Security, Health and Environment) Newsletter (2012/Issue 1) is available on our website (www.sicherheit.ethz.ch). The topics are:

- Working with genetically modified, pathogenic or invasive alien organisms
- Volatile organic compounds belong in the hazardous waste, not...
- Evacuation drill, Building CAB-CNB
- Information and alert tool (IAT)

I wish you all happy reading and naturally am available for any questions or suggestions.



K. Timmel Zamboni
Head of the SSHE Unit

More information

www.sicherheit.ethz.ch/

Working with genetically modified, pathogenic or invasive alien organisms

Projects with genetically modified organisms (GMO) or pathogens and certain alien invasive organisms are subject to the *Einschliessungsverordnung* (Containment Ordinance, ESV; <http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/8/814.912.de.pdf>) and, depending on the hazard class, have to be reported to the federal authorities. This also includes activities with specimens of human origin, such as blood, cell cultures etc.

When is reporting or authorisation required?

		GMO	PO	AOC	Diagnostics
Class 1	First-time activity or alteration	Report	No reporting necessary		
Class 2	First-time activity or alteration	Report			
Classes 3 and 4	First-time activity or technical alteration	Authorisation			
	Administrative alteration	Report			
All classes	Omission of safety measures	Authorisation			

GMO = genetically modified organisms

PO = pathogenic organisms

AOC = Alien organisms liable for containment

Source: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/biotechnologie/>

How do you report activities?

You will find step-by-step instructions on how to report your level 1 and level 2 activities to the authorities on the SSHE homepage:

http://www.sicherheit.ethz.ch/docs/health_docs/Mo8_Biosicherheit_DE

If activities liable for authorisation (omission of safety measures or activities in the third or fourth class; see above) are planned, the SSHE must be contacted in advance.

Important to know

- Without an official report to / the authorisation of the authorities, **no** such activities may be conducted at ETH Zurich.
- Projects under biosafety conditions often require structural and / or organisational alterations in your labs. Please inquire at the SSHE well in advance to enable the necessary measures to be arranged swiftly.
- Please inform the SSHE as to who will be your group's biosafety officer (BSO). The SSHE must also be informed as soon as possible if the BSO changes.

SSHE contact for questions on biosafety: Ines Raabe (ines-raabe@ethz.ch)

Volatile organic compounds belong in the hazardous waste, not the exhaust air or wastewater

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are used as solvents in numerous industries and are present in various products.

If these substances find their way into the air, they have a harmful impact on humans and the environment. However, VOCs primarily act as precursors in the formation of ground-level ozone, which is formed from VOCs and nitric oxides (NO_x) under the influence of sunlight and hits the headlines in the summer months for all the wrong reasons as summer smog.



For around a decade, a steering tax of **CHF 3.- per kilogram** of VOC has been levied in Switzerland when you buy solvents. For non-halide (but also chlorinated) solvent waste, which the SSHE disposes of correctly in accordance with specific regulations, you can apply to reclaim these levies. The application is much like a tax declaration. At ETH Zurich, the SSHE has assumed the task of preparing the VOC balance sheet. Only in this way can ETH Zurich claim back **approximately CHF 100,000.-** of taxes paid per calendar year from the Swiss customs authorities.

With your help and environmental awareness, this could be even more. But how? By making sure that as little solvent as possible finds its way into the air or wastewater (as so-called diffuse emissions). VOCs generally have a harmful impact on humans and the environment, which should especially be borne in mind when working with methylene chloride. Consequently, bring any solvent waste to our disposal points (CNB E146 or HCI D276 – see box) before a significant proportion of it can evaporate.

Martin Frei (martin-frei@ethz.ch) is on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Hazardous waste disposal – opening times

HCI D276: daily 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (during the holidays, only Tues. and Thurs)
CNB E146: Wed. 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

or by arrangement on the telephone.

Evacuation drill, Building CAB-CNB, Friday 22 June 2012



In the run-up to the drill, all users were given a flyer outlining the evacuation procedure. In particular, the assembly point – in the ASVZ gym in the MM building below the Polyterrasse – was announced. This meeting point is the same for any ETH-Zurich building around the main building.

The CAB and CNB buildings are equipped with an evacuation system that can be activated by the person in charge of the building in case of a major incident. The users present are instructed to leave the building in English and German over the activated tannoy announcement.

Beat Fröhlich and Gion Bundi from the infrastructure unit - together with evacuation assistants - were able to complete a run-through of the entire process (sounding the evacuation, allocation of duties among evacuation assistants etc.) under realistic conditions. They were supported by Christoph Schumann and members of his team from the neighbouring main building (HG). Their task was to organise the assembly point in the MM building.

As part of an advertised drill, the two buildings CAB and CNB at the ETH Centre were fully evacuated. This enabled us to kill two birds with one stone: on the one hand, those in charge of the building now know what to do in case of an emergency; on the other hand, it provided an opportunity to test an information and alert tool (IAT) in a pilot experiment that offers key advantages regarding alerts via landlines, text message and email.

 Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	Verhalten im Evakuationsfall How to react in case of evacuation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akustischer Aufforderung zur "Evakuaton" umgehend nachkommen • Persönliche Wertgegenstände und witterungstaugliche Kleidung mitnehmen • Fenster schliessen, leere Räume abschliessen • Näheres Umfeld über Evakuaton Informieren • Gebäude ruhig und rasch verlassen • Keine Lifte benutzen, behinderten Personen helfen • Anordnungen der Einsatzkräfte befolgen • Sammelplatz auf kürzestem Weg ***** aufsuchen • Sammelplatz: ASVZ-Sporthalle MM Z 82 unter der Polyterrasse gem. Rückseite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the order of evacuation alarm immediately • Take your valuables and weatherproof clothes with you • Close the windows, and lock empty rooms • Inform your colleagues to leave the building • Leave the building calm and quickly • Don't use any lifts, help handicapped people • Follow the orders of the officials • Go to the meeting point directly ***** • Meeting point: ASVZ-Gym MM Z 82, below "Polyterrasse", see plan on the back
<small>Stab Sicherheit, Gesundheit und Umwelt, T.Meier Gf: für Gebäudebereich AU Erstellt: bauwerkstatt gallardo gmbh Datum: 14. Juni 2012</small>	

Information and alert tool (IAT)

The evacuation drill presented an opportunity to test a tool in a pilot experiment that can inform and alert members of ETH Zurich and users in ETH-Zurich buildings via different reception media in case of emergencies. The evacuation process began once the evacuation system had been activated. The staff affected were informed about the drill via email. During the drill they received telephone calls on their landlines and mobiles with specific information regarding the evacuation.

The pilot experiment proved promising. The plan is to incorporate further reception media, such as multimedia systems and info screens, as well as telephone calls and emails with this tool to enable externals, guests and visitors to be informed and alerted along with members of ETH Zurich.

A workgroup is now in the process of defining the field of application for the tool and drafting decision-making bases for its use at ETH Zurich.