

24.01.08 Minors in Labs

Approved July 30, 2019
Next Scheduled Review: July 30, 2024



Regulation Summary

This regulation outlines the requirements for minors to access laboratory facilities or shops that are operated by members of The Texas A&M University System (system) or third parties using member laboratory facilities where (i) full supervisory duties of the minor(s) are the member's or third-party's responsibility, and (ii) the program includes the same minor or group of minors, regardless of the duration of the program.

This regulation applies to all minors involved in internships, volunteering in research projects, and participating in scheduled assignments in laboratory facilities or shops that use hazardous chemicals, biohazardous or infectious materials, radioactive materials or radiation-producing equipment, or where there are tools, equipment and/or machinery that pose a risk of major physical hazards.

This regulation does not apply to students enrolled in courses listed in a campus course catalog having a laboratory component, outreach programs or camps under the purview of System Regulation 24.01.06, *Programs for Minors*, or general accompanied tours.

Definitions

Click to view [Definitions](#).

Regulation

1. AGE RESTRICTIONS

Minors younger than 15 are not permitted in a laboratory facility or shop.

- (a) 15-year-olds are only permitted to work with Risk Group 1 microorganisms.
- (b) 16 and 17-year-olds are permitted to work with Risk Group 1 and Risk Group 2 microorganisms.

2. HAZARD RESTRICTIONS

2.1 Minors are not permitted to work with or access areas containing:

- (a) biohazardous material requiring containment above BSL-2;
- (b) select agents or toxins (defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

- (c) work that requires the use of respiratory protection requiring medical clearance;
- (d) radioactive materials or ionizing radiation;
- (e) class 3b or 4 lasers;
- (f) areas with hazardous noise (85 dBA as an 8-hour TWA);
- (g) controlled substances;
- (h) highly hazardous materials including, but not limited to, pyrophorics, explosives, large quantities of flammable materials (containers of 4 liters or more), and compounds having a rat oral LD₅₀ less than or equal to 50 mg/kg (e.g. hydrofluoric acid, acrylonitrile, osmium tetroxide, etc.);
- (i) animals intentionally infected with disease transmissible to humans; and
- (j) International Agency for Research on Cancer Group 1 or 2A carcinogens.

2.2 Prior to a minor's use of tools, equipment and/or machinery that pose a risk of major physical hazards (e.g., lathes, electric saws, microtomes, ultracentrifuges, etc.), the following conditions must be met:

2.2.1 The minor must be instructed by a qualified individual on the proper use of the tools, equipment and/or machinery.

2.2.2 The minor must demonstrate proficiency on the proper use.

2.2.3 The minor must be provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment, if required, during use of the tools, equipment and/or machinery.

2.2.4 The tools, equipment and/or machinery must be maintained in good repair, have the necessary safety guard attached, and only be used under direct supervision.

3. SUPERVISION

3.1 The sponsor is responsible for the safety of minors in the laboratory facility.

3.2 The sponsor's responsibility includes the required training and proper use of laboratory equipment, laboratory supplies, and personal protective equipment.

3.3 Minors are permitted physical access to a laboratory facility only if they are under direct supervision.

4. TRAINING

4.1 Minors visiting laboratory facilities must be advised of any hazards that exist in the laboratory facility and the procedures for reporting accidents that occur in the laboratory facility.

4.2 Minors working in laboratory facilities must complete all required safety training before beginning lab work.

5. PARENTAL CONSENT

Each minor's parent or guardian must sign and return a *Waiver, Indemnification, and Medical Treatment Authorization Form* before the minor is granted access to the laboratory facilities.

6. COMPLIANCE

6.1 Background Screening and Training

- 6.1.1 The background screening, compliance and reporting requirements specified by System Regulation 24.01.06, *Programs for Minors*, will apply to all individuals, including faculty, staff and graduate students who are providing direct supervision of the minor and are so designated.
- 6.1.2 Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that all staff who provide direct supervision for a minor complete all required trainings prior to having contact with minors.

6.2 Laboratory Facility Compliance

- 6.2.1 All laboratory facilities where minors will work must have an Environmental, Health, & Safety laboratory safety inspection within 12 months of the date the minor will begin working in the laboratory facility. If deficiencies were identified in the inspection, documentation that all deficiencies have been and remain corrected must be included (i.e., follow-up inspection, documentation provided by sponsor). Minors are not permitted in laboratory facilities with unresolved safety violations.
- 6.2.2 If applicable, laboratory facilities must have an approved Institutional Biosafety Committee Permit, accurately listing all biohazardous agents in use in the laboratory facility. All laboratory facilities where minors will work must have a satisfactory biosafety laboratory inspection within 12 months of the date the minor will begin working in the laboratory facility. If deficiencies were identified in the inspection, documentation (i.e., follow-up inspection, documentation provided by sponsor) that all deficiencies have been and remain corrected must be included. Minors are not permitted in laboratory facilities with unresolved safety violations.
- 6.2.3 If applicable, laboratory facilities must have approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee protocol(s).
- 6.2.4 If applicable, laboratory facilities must have approved Institutional Review Board permits.

7. DOCUMENTATION

- 7.1 The sponsor must maintain an up-to-date file that contains all of the minors' training records and *Waiver, Indemnification, and Medical Treatment Authorization Forms*.
- 7.2 The sponsor must maintain up-to-date preventative maintenance records (per manufacturer's recommendations) and repair records for tools, equipment and/or machinery defined in Section 2.2 that will be used by the minor(s).

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[System Regulation 24.01.06, Programs for Minors](#)

[29 CFR 570.57 – Exposure to Radioactive Substances and to Ionizing Radiations](#)

[21 CFR 1308 – Schedules of Controlled Substances](#)

[29 CFR 1910.119, App. A – List of Highly Hazardous Chemicals, Toxics and Reactives](#)

[International Agency for Research on Cancer - Carcinogens](#)

[The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\) – Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention](#)

[BMBL 5th Ed. 2009 Sect. II, Table 1 – Determination of Risk Group 2 microorganisms](#)

[BMBL 5th Ed. 2009, Sect. VIII-G – Determination of Risk Group 2 toxins](#)

[7 CFR Part 331, 9 CFR Part 121, and 42 CFR Part 73 – Select Agents and Toxins](#)

Appendix

[Waiver, Indemnification, and Medical Treatment Authorization Form](#)

[Minors Medical Information & Release Form](#)

Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this regulation.

Contact Office

System Office of Risk Management
(979) 458-6330