

## 34.01.08 Minors in a Laboratory Facility

Revised [May 18, 2026](#)

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### Regulation Summary

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This regulation outlines the requirements for minors accessing laboratory facilities on property owned or controlled by a member of The Texas A&M University System (system), or third parties using such facilities, where supervisory duties of the minor(s) are the member's or third party's responsibility, regardless of the duration of the program.

This regulation applies to all minors involved in internships, volunteering, visiting (e.g., a minor dependent of staff, faculty, researchers, students, or other personnel), or participating in research or scheduled work in a laboratory facility that uses 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 may not apply to students enrolled in courses listed in a campus course catalog having a laboratory component.

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### Definitions

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### Regulation

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#### 1. SUPERVISION

- 1.1 All minors with access to laboratory facilities must have an identified sponsor.
- 1.2 The sponsor is responsible for the safety of minors in the laboratory facility.
- 1.3 The sponsor is responsible for ensuring:
  - 1.3.1 The successful completion and documentation of required training(s),
  - 1.3.2 Ongoing safe and proper use of the laboratory facility and associated equipment,
  - 1.3.3 Availability of all laboratory supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), where required.
  - 1.3.4 Direct supervision of a minor permitted physical access to a laboratory facility.

## 2. TRAINING

- 2.1 The parent or legal guardian and minor visiting a laboratory facility must be advised of any hazards that exist in the laboratory facility and the procedures for reporting accidents that occur in the laboratory facility.
- 2.2 Minors working in a laboratory facility must complete all required safety training before beginning lab work.

## 3. PARENTAL CONSENT

- 3.1 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 facility.

## 4. AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 4.1 Minors younger than 15 years of age are not permitted in a laboratory facility.
- 4.2 Fifteen-year-olds are only permitted to work with agents that are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans (Risk Group 1 microorganisms).
- 4.3 Sixteen and 17-year-olds are permitted to work with Risk Group 1 and Risk Group 2 microorganisms.

## 5. HAZARD RESTRICTIONS

- 5.1 Minors are not permitted to work with or access areas containing:
  - (a) biohazardous material requiring containment above Biosafety Level-2 (BSL-2);
  - (b) select agents or toxins (as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Federal Select Agent Program);
  - (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 time-weighted average (TWA)];
  - (g) controlled substances;
  - (h) highly hazardous materials, including, but not limited to, corrosive chemicals with severe health hazards (e.g., concentrated nitric and sulfuric acids, sodium hydroxide, etc.), heavy metals (e.g. mercury, lead, cadmium, etc.), peroxide and peroxide-forming chemicals, pyrophorics, explosives, large quantities of flammable materials (containers of 4 liters or more), and compounds having a rat oral LD<sub>50</sub> less than or equal to 50 mg/kg (e.g., hydrofluoric acid, acrylonitrile, osmium tetroxide, etc.);
  - (i) animals intentionally infected with a disease transmissible to humans; or
  - (j) International Agency for Research on Cancer Group 1 or 2A carcinogens.

- 5.2 Prior to a minor's use of or close access to a tool, equipment, and/or machinery that poses a risk of major physical hazards (e.g., lathe, electric saw, kiln, welder, hoist, microtome, ultracentrifuge, etc.), the sponsor will ensure the following conditions are met:
- 5.2.1 The minor is only permitted to use the tool, equipment, and/or machinery under direct supervision.
  - 5.2.2 The tool, equipment and/or machinery is maintained in good repair, with the necessary safety guard(s) attached.
  - 5.2.3 The minor has received instruction by a qualified person on the proper use of the tool, equipment, and/or machinery.
  - 5.2.4 The minor has received the necessary PPE, if required, and has been trained in its proper use when operating the tool.
  - 5.2.5 The minor has demonstrated to the sponsor and/or qualified person (if not the same) proficiency in the proper use of the tool.

## 6. EXCEPTIONS

- 6.1 A sponsor may request authorization under a member-approved special permissions process for a regional, state, national, or international youth enrichment program, development program, conference, or competition to access a laboratory facility. The program must involve only laboratory facilities commonly found in a junior high or high school, and the areas accessed must not contain hazards listed in Section 5.1.
- 6.2 Guided, walk-through tours of areas not listed in Section 5.1 must follow a predefined path, provided that no machines are operating, no live experiments are underway, and no demonstrations are conducted. Guided, walk-through tours must be authorized under a member-approved special permissions process, which should be completed by the sponsor.

## 7. COMPLIANCE

### 7.1 Programs for Minors Compliance

- 7.1.1 Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that all programs for minors that conduct activities in laboratory facilities comply with the requirements specified by System Regulation 24.01.06 Programs for Minors and applicable A&M System member rules, prior to contact with minors.

### 7.2 Laboratory Facility Compliance

- 7.2.1 Sponsors must ensure that the following requirements are met in a laboratory facility with minor occupants:
  - 7.2.1.1 A laboratory facility with minor occupants must have an Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) laboratory safety inspection within 12 months of the date the minor begins work in the laboratory facility. If deficiencies were

identified during the EHS inspection, documentation (e.g., follow-up inspection report(s) and related documentation) demonstrating that all deficiencies have been and remain corrected must be maintained. Minors are not permitted in a laboratory facility with unresolved safety deficiencies.

7.2.1.2 If applicable, a laboratory facility and associated research projects must have relevant approvals from the Institutional Biosafety Committee, accurately listing all biohazardous agents in use in the laboratory facility. A laboratory facility where minors will work must have a satisfactory biosafety laboratory inspection within 12 months of the date the minor begins work in the laboratory facility. If deficiencies were identified in the biosafety inspection, documentation (e.g., follow-up inspection report(s) and related documentation) demonstrating that all deficiencies have been and remain corrected must be maintained. Minors are not permitted in a laboratory facility with unresolved biosafety deficiencies.

7.2.1.3 If applicable, a laboratory facility and associated research projects must have an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee according to the requirements of System Regulation 15.99.07 Use of Vertebrate Animals and applicable A&M System member rules. Minors working with animals in research are required to enroll in member occupational health and safety programs, as applicable.

7.2.1.4 If applicable, a laboratory facility and associated research projects must have relevant Institutional Review Board approval.

## 8. DOCUMENTATION

8.1 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 in accordance with member retention schedules.

8.2 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 5.2 that will be used by the minor(s).

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## Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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[System Policy 34.01, \*Environment, Safety and Security\*](#)

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

[System Regulation 15.99.01, \*Use of Human Subjects in Research\*](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.06, \*Use of Biohazardous Material in Research, Teaching and Testing\*](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.07, \*Use of Vertebrate Animals\*](#)

[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](#)

[Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories \(BMBL\) 6th Ed. 2020](#)

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

[29 CFR 570 Child Labor Regulations, Orders and Statements of Interpretation](#)

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## **Appendix**

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

[Minors Medical Information & Release Form](#)

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## **Member Rule Requirements**

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A rule is not required to supplement this regulation.

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## **Contact Office**

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Environment, Safety and Security  
(979) 458-7523