UMASS BOSTON	The Office of Environmental Health and Safety
Safety Guideline	ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES
	AND RESEARCH FACILITIES
	Effective Date: 11/15/18
	Updated: 12/21/22

Purpose

This guideline confirms the University's procedures with respect to who has access to teaching and research laboratories and research facilities. The Guideline is designed to prevent accidents and injuries as well as the disruption of teaching or research activities. Laboratory research often involves potentially hazardous and regulated materials, such as biological and chemical agents, toxins, radioisotopes, and potentially hazardous equipment. Principal Investigators, Lab Managers or their designee are authorized to approve entry into their laboratory or research facility

Routine Access

Routine access to UMass Boston laboratories and research support facilities is restricted to:

- authorized laboratory personnel including faculty, staff, postdoctoral associates and fellows,
- authorized students whose presence is part of their normal work, supervised research or coursework, and
- Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) personnel,

Special Access

Other employees including Facilities personnel, service vendors, students, individuals from other academic or research institutions, business organizations, governmental agencies may access laboratories and research facilities with authorization if they are escorted by laboratory personnel or OEHS. Special access is typically short-term visits and must be for academic, business, or educational purposes.

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Faculty members, laboratory managers, and their designees are responsible for making appropriate arrangements for such visits based on considerations of safety and non-disruption of research activities, and for denying access to non-authorized personnel. Certain laboratories and research support facilities have more restrictive access policies and procedures. In this regard, visitors may not enter any laboratory, animal, or clinical facility that requires specialized training and/or a UMass Boston appointment to gain access without preapproval from all applicable entities (Office of Environmental Health & Safety, UMass Boston IACUC and/or IBC committees).

Visitors to UMass Boston laboratories or research support facilities must be escorted by laboratory personnel or OEHS. As needed a briefing should be provided regarding activities currently underway in the lab, where not to touch (keeping in mind that potential hazards may not be obvious to visitors), what to do in case of an emergency, and exit routes. Under some circumstances, visitors may be asked to wear personal protective gear appropriate for the hazards present in the laboratory or research facility.

Visitor access under the conditions described above does not constitute authorization to conduct research in a UMass Boston laboratory or research support facility. Performing research in these facilities requires a formal UMass Boston appointment and completion of all appropriate safety and compliance training. Minors may not visit laboratories or research support facilities except as provided by the Minors in Laboratories Standard Operating Procedure.

Recognizing a lab (or other hazardous location)

All labs have signage indicating what the hazards in the space are and the emergency contacts.

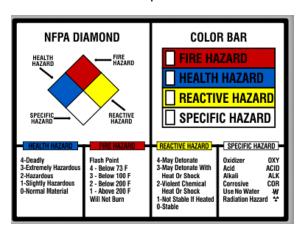


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In addition, some spaces are marked with the NFPA 704 diamond. These spaces may not be laboratories but are spaces that contain some sort of hazard.



For any marked space, the PI, space owner or OEHS must be present for access.