



**DGUV**

Deutsche Gesetzliche  
Unfallversicherung  
Spitzenverband



Information Brochure

# Hazardous Substances at Universities

Information for Students  
and Scientific Employees



During training and research at universities, also hazardous substances are used. These may be chemicals, chemical products or micro-organisms



**Basic Rule:**

**Work with hazardous substances must not pose a danger to the worker, nor to others!**

# How to recognize hazardous substances?

Containers of chemical products must be labelled. The labelling provides basic information about the hazardous properties.

Examples:



## Attention!

Reaction apparatuses containing chemicals will generally not be labelled.

Hazardous substance may be released from harmless substances, e.g. welding fumes during welding or emissions from diesel engines.

Areas where micro-organisms are handled are labelled with the „Biohazard“ (German: Biogefährdung) sign. This sign indicates danger of infection.



## Where to get informed?

Many work procedures entail hazards. For these specific hazards, there are special written protocols (operating instructions). At many universities, these are available in English as well.

Furthermore, you receive specific information from the course, lab or workshop supervisors (instruction).

## What to keep in mind?

Pay attention to the information on workplace health and safety which you receive. This includes e.g. consistent wearing of personal protective equipment (protective goggles, protective gloves) and suitable working clothes (lab coat, closed shoes). At workplaces where hazardous substances are used, eating, drinking and smoking is basically prohibited.

In these working areas, specific regulations apply to access and working hours.

### **Attention!**

For pregnant and nursing women, special regulations are to be complied with.

## Where to find further information?

There is a plethora of specific technical information. Here only regulations and information by the statutory accident insurance providers are listed:

Regel „Umgang mit Gefahrstoffen in Hochschulen“  
(GUV-SR 2005)

<http://www.dguv.de/ifa/de/fac/index.jsp>

Information brochure „Safety in University Chemistry Courses - An Introduction for Students“  
(BGI/GUV-I 8553E)

German version: „Sicherheit im chemischen Hochschulpraktikum - Eine Einführung für Studierende“  
(BGI/GUV-I 8553)

<http://www.dguv.de>

Information brochure „Working Safely in Laboratories - Basic Principles and Guidelines“ (BGI/GUV-I 850-0E)

German version: «Sicheres Arbeiten in Laboratorien - Grundlagen und Handlungshilfen» (BGI/GUV-I 850-0)

<http://www.laborrichtlinien.de>

Gefahrstoffdatenbank der Gesetzlichen Unfallversicherungsträger (GESTIS)

also in English:

<http://www.dguv.de/ifa/de/fac/index.jsp>

Information brochure „Chemikalienschutzhandschuhe“  
(BGI/GUV-I 868).

Merkblätter der B-Reihe (Sichere Biotechnologie),  
BG Rohstoffe und chemische Industrie, Heidelberg

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