



Chemical Donation Policy

Purpose

Upon occasion, businesses, schools, or other organizations offer to donate chemicals (e.g., paints, lab chemicals) to Hunter College. These donations can reduce the cost of obtaining chemicals and provide an opportunity for waste minimization of the donor. However, accepting donated chemicals can result in chemical management compliance and potential safety issues for Hunter College. Moreover, the chemicals may have to be disposed as hazardous waste at a significant cost and Hunter College assumes the potential liability associated with disposal. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that chemical donations are accepted only if they have a beneficial use for Hunter College and do not create significant safety and liability concerns.

Applicability

This policy applies to donations of chemicals offered to Hunter College, departments, or individual faculty or staff members.

Policy

Donations of laboratory chemicals, or substances that will be considered hazardous waste will not be accepted without approval of the Director of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department. The donation shall not exceed the quantity necessary for use in an ongoing or funded project.

To ensure that Hunter College has the proper storage and safety processes in place to accept chemical donations, each chemical donation request must be submitted to the EHS Director for review. The EHS director will consult with the Risk Manager and others as appropriate before approving the donation request. This policy also includes paints or other chemical products, available for pickup at municipal recycling centers.

Hunter College will NOT accept chemical donations that meet any of the following criteria:

- Open containers
- Original labels not intact
- Expired or within six months of expiration date
- On the DEA Chemicals of Concern List, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Precursor Chemicals, Department of Homeland Security, Chemicals of Interest, required TSCA import certification or chemicals that are in highly hazardous classes such as explosive, reactive, highly toxic, radioactive and peroxide forming

Additional Information

Minimization of chemical waste is in the best interest of the faculty and staff as well as Hunter College. Excessive laboratory waste production diverts valuable funds away from more productive activities and increases the regulatory compliance burden on Hunter College. There is a direct correlation between the total University chemical inventory and total waste production, waste minimization must begin with chemical inventory minimization. Chemicals should be acquired in the amounts needed for specific project and not simply to have on hand. Current purchase and delivery services make this practice

unnecessary. Waste disposal costs make the practice short-sighted. Effective methods to minimize laboratory waste include micro- or reduced-scale.

If you have been offered chemicals that you would like to accept, please email ehs@hunter.cuny.edu with the following information. It will be evaluated by the EHS department and contact you to discuss the donation:

- Donor's name, organization, and phone number
- Product name(s), number of containers, and size
- Product expiration date, if any
- Reason the organization is donating the chemical
- When you would like to receive the materials
- Propose use of the material and timeframe of use
- Propose storage location
- Description of waste generated as the result of use

If you have any questions regarding the policy, please contact the EHS department via email.