

00023S01 -Explanation for Solvents in Laboratories (Excluding Laboratories in Health Care Occupancies)

To be used in conjunction with the “Standard for Solvents in Laboratories”

[E.H.&S Standard for Solvents](#)

The “Standard for Solvents in Laboratories” is based on the current edition of the Kentucky Fire Prevention Code that references NFPA 30 and NFPA 45. University laboratories are classified as a Class B (Moderate Fire Hazard).

Note that UK requirements are even more restrictive than NFPA 45.

- A. **All flammable and combustible liquids are grouped together as solvents. There is no class differentiation made between these liquids.**
- B. Ten (10) gallons of solvents are permitted per each 100 gross sq. ft increments per laboratory. Five (5) gallons of this amount must be in safety cans or UL listed safety cabinets,
- C. A UL listed safety cabinet is required beneath each chemical fume hood,
- D. A laboratory is considered to be the area within the defining four walls,
- E. A laboratory unit is the space separated from other areas with fire rated walls ,
- F. Write up desk areas, means of egress passageways exterior to the lab, or similar type areas that are not within the defining 4 walls are not to be considered as part of a laboratory,
- G. Solvent in excess of the 10 gallons per 100 gross sq. ft. increments within the “laboratory” is considered storage and is required to be stored in inside storage rooms meeting NFPA 30 requirements for dispensing,
- H. In situations where one laboratory contains fewer gallons of solvents than permitted per the gross sq. ft. increments, the 100 gross sq. ft increment(s) not being utilized by this laboratory can not be transferred to another laboratory to increase the total solvents within that laboratory.
- I. All five (5) gallon cans of flammable solvents shall be stored in approved safety cabinets or approved storage rooms..

Contact the Division of Environmental Health & Safety (257-3241) for additional information on laboratory safety.

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