Request for Variance of Food/Drink in Laboratory Prohibition

Introduction (please read carefully)

1. It is the policy of Carnegie Mellon University that there is no eating or drinking in laboratory areas where hazardous materials are present or in use. The purpose of this policy is to prevent accidental ingestion of hazardous materials.
2. It is recognized that in certain circumstances this prohibition presents a significant burden to laboratory personnel. As a result, petitions for easing of certain parts of this prohibition will be considered. Approval will be by Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), and monitoring of the provisions approved will be routine and random by EH&S.
3. This form will not be considered if the laboratory already has an acceptable food/drink area which is separate from lab activities by a closed door.
4. This form will not be considered if the strategies proposed violate established biosafety or radiation safety requirements.
5. The form will require you to present your case for easing of the University policy, based on one or more strategies for reducing any risk to an acceptable level to EH&S. Please consider any or all of these strategies. You do NOT need to address all three strategies, if they are not necessary or applicable.
6. Please prepare a separate form for each non-contiguous lab space for which you are requesting an exemption from the no eating or drinking policy.

Laboratory information

Building: ____________________________  Room(s): _______________________  Dept: _________________________
Principal Investigator: _______________________________  Lab Contact Person: ______________________________

Your petition (please be as detailed as possible, to ensure a successful petition!)

Strategy 1:

The lab proposes that acceptable segregation of chemical use and storage areas are present to minimize the risk to lab personnel eating or drinking in the lab. Describe how you propose to achieve this segregation:

Strategy 2:

The lab proposes the reduction or elimination of hazardous material activities during approved food/drink periods. Describe how you propose to achieve this:
Strategy 3:

The laboratory proposes that only very low hazard materials are present in the areas where food/drink are to be consumed. Describe how you propose to achieve this:

Other Strategies

Please describe any additional strategies or procedures that you feel will support your petition for permission to permit food and/or drink in otherwise prohibited laboratory areas.

Signatures*

Principal Investigator Name & Signature _____________________________________________________________

Date ______________________________________________

(If e-mailed from the PI’s CMU e-mail account, a hand written signature is not needed. Please type in name and date.)

Please submit the form electronically to:

Mark Banister, Chemical Hygiene Officer
EH&S/FMSB
markb2@andrew.cmu.edu
Here are some possible suggestions for responses for your submittal. Remember: the submittal should represent what you have space-wise and how you intend to comply!

For Strategy 1:

1. The laboratory eating areas are separated from lab spaces, though not by walls. Distance is greater than 10 feet.
2. Lab chemical storage is in enclosed cabinets.
3. Attach a floor plan to indicate the area(s) where you are proposing the exemption from the no food or drink policy.

For Strategy 2:

1. The lab does not permit any chemical usage during approved eating times.
2. Chemical storage is in enclosed cabinets or in the operating fume hoods.
3. Chemical usage is solely performed in fume hoods or properly ventilated areas.
4. The laboratory strictly enforces a policy of washing of hands before eating or drinking.
5. The laboratory only permits drink of beverages at desks and in enclosed containers at one’s desk. No eating is permitted in the lab.
6. The hazardous operations are seldom or non-routinely performed.
7. Suitable decontamination of the hazardous operation areas is regularly performed.
8. The proposed eating or drinking area is decontaminated prior to eating.

For Strategy 3:

1. The laboratory only contains very low hazard chemicals.
2. The laboratory uses only very dilute chemical materials.
3. The laboratory only uses microscale (mL volume) chemicals.
4. The laboratory materials are not hazardous by ingestion.