



## Risk Assessment – RMU-RA-001

### Risk Assessment: Handling and usage of chemicals


All personnel have a duty of care to themselves and to those around them. The risks identified and set out in this document will enable persons to employ the relevant health and safety measures required to be able to handle and work within the Sputum laboratory.


Personnel must make sure that their work is carried out in the approved way and in accordance with University policy, ensure that all training given is followed and that all relevant COSHH, MSDS and SOP's have been read and understood.


A full list of university policy statements can be found at:

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/safety/policy-statements/>

Carried out by: Samantha Thulborn	Date carried out: April 2014	Review Date: April 2015 Reviewed no changes made.
		Review Date: April 2016

	<b>Hazard</b> - Toxic Chemicals - A substance which if inhaled, ingested or penetrates the skin may involve serious, acute or chronic health risks, even death.	<b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors	<b>Risk</b> - Medium
<b>Existing Controls</b> - Must be handled in a fume hood. Users must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Users must read and understand relevant COSHH and MSDS.		<b>Further Action Required</b> - None	

	<b>Hazard</b> - Harmful Chemicals - A substance which if it is inhaled, ingested or if it penetrates the skin may involve limited health risks.	<b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors	<b>Risk</b> - Medium
<b>Existing Controls</b> - Must be handled in a fume hood. Users must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Users must read and understand relevant COSHH and MSDS.		<b>Further Action Required</b> - None	

	<b>Hazard</b> - Irritant Chemicals - A non-corrosive substance which, through immediate, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin or mucus membranes, causes inflammation.	<b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors	<b>Risk</b> - Medium
<b>Existing Controls</b> - Must be handled in a fume hood. Users must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Users must read and understand relevant COSHH and MSDS.		<b>Further Action Required</b> - None	



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	<p><b>Hazard</b> - Corrosive Chemicals - A substance which may destroy living tissue if contact is made.</p>	<p><b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors</p>	<p><b>Risk</b> - Medium</p>
<p><b>Existing Controls</b> – May need to be handled in a fume hood, depending on hazards specific to individual chemical. Users must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Users must read and understand relevant COSHH and MSDS.</p>		<p><b>Further Action Required</b> - None</p>	
	<p><b>Hazard</b> - Extremely flammable, highly flammable and flammable chemicals. <b>Extremely flammable:</b> A substance whose flash point is below 0°C. The flash point being the lowest temperature at which a flammable concentration of vapour will be formed by evaporation in air. <b>Highly Flammable:</b> A substance whose flash point is below 21°C. The flash point being the lowest temperature at which a flammable concentration of vapour will be formed by evaporation in air. <b>Flammable:</b> A substance whose flash point is below 55°C. The flash point being the lowest temperature at which a flammable concentration of vapour will be formed by evaporation in air.</p>	<p><b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors</p>	<p><b>Risk</b> - Medium</p>
<p><b>Existing Controls</b> – Must not be handled near any potential ignition source. Must be stored in a flammables cabinet. Must be handled in a fume hood. Users must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Users must read and understand relevant COSHH and MSDS.</p>		<p><b>Further Action Required</b> - None</p>	
	<p><b>Hazard</b> - Explosive Chemicals - A material that is liable to explode under effects of flame or due to impact or due to friction.</p>	<p><b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors</p>	<p><b>Risk</b> - Medium</p>
<p><b>Existing Controls</b> - Only to be handled by competent and authorized personnel. Must be handled in a fume cupboard. User must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Must not be handled or stored near naked flames or any potential source of ignition.</p>		<p><b>Further Action Required</b> - None</p>	
	<p><b>Hazard</b> - Oxidising Chemicals - An oxidising material assists the combustion of a flammable material although it may not itself burn. Powerful oxidising</p>	<p><b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors</p>	<p><b>Risk</b> - Medium</p>



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agents may give rise to spontaneous ignition at normal temperatures.			
<b>Existing Controls</b> - Only to be handled by competent and authorized personnel Must consult relevant MSDS to ensure that these materials do not come in contact with any incompatible materials. Keep away from organic materials – paper, wood flammable and combustible materials, greases, waxes cloth and many plastics. Must be handled in a fume cupboard. User must wear safety glasses, lab coat and relevant gloves. Must not be handled or stored near naked flames or any potential source of ignition.		<b>Further Action Required</b> - None	

	<b>Hazard</b> - Cryogenics - Very low temperatures at which the effect on the skin can lead to severe burns	<b>Affected Groups</b> – Staff, Students and Visitors	<b>Risk</b> - Medium
	<b>Existing Controls</b> - Only to be handled by competent and authorized personnel. Users must wear all appropriate PPE, including safety glasses, gloves, thermal gloves and closed foot ware. Where relevant (cryo storage units and filling/use of liquid nitrogen) a face shield and over apron must be worn.	<b>Further Action Required</b> - None	

It is the users responsibility to ensure what controls are needed to ensure that the health of themselves and others around them. It is imperative that you **DO NOT** start any work until you are absolutely sure of the appropriate precautions that need to be employed. If you are unsure seek advice from your line/laboratory manager or your departmental safety officer (DSO).