



Fundamentals of Working Safely with Formaldehyde and Glutaraldehyde: Introduction

Formaldehyde and glutaraldehyde are toxic chemical compounds that are commonly used in laboratories.

Exposure to formaldehyde or glutaraldehyde can result in significant adverse effects such as respiratory irritation or impairment, laryngitis, asthma, and bronchitis.

Exposure to formaldehyde can also result in cancer.

The effects of formaldehyde exposure prompted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to adopt the Formaldehyde Standard 29 CFR 1910.1048 to minimize occupational exposure to formaldehyde.

In an ongoing commitment to a consistent culture of safety while working with formaldehyde and glutaraldehyde:

Follow your laboratory SOPs and OSHA standards.

Utilize manufacturers' safety data sheets for information on the hazardous characteristics, exposure routes, and health effects of these chemicals.

Follow your laboratory's comprehensive risk management plan.

Apply protective measures to prevent exposures.

Follow your laboratory's response procedures for incidents.

Participate in training and report concerns to your supervisor.