

STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

24.01.01.M0.02 Visitors in Hazardous Areas

Approved May 2, 1997

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SAP Statement

This SAP applies to all Texas A&M University locations (e.g., Texas A&M University at Galveston, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Texas A&M Health, Texas A&M University School of Law, and Higher Education Center at McAllen) where hazardous materials or equipment are located, or hazardous operations are conducted. In these locations, it may be necessary to restrict access to visitors, especially children and minors.

Responsibility for implementing visitor programs at Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ) lies with the TAMUQ Office of Building Operations and Health, Security, Safety & Environment (OBO-HSSE). TAMUQ OBO-HSSE Office should be substituted for TAMU Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) in this document when applying these requirements to the TAMUQ campus. In addition to the requirements set out in this document, TAMUQ is obligated to follow applicable requirements of the Qatar Foundation and the State of Qatar.

Official Procedure

1. GENERAL

Hazardous areas may include but are not limited to laboratories, shops, animal holding areas, power plants, etc. The risk of accident or injury in these areas is increased for those who are unfamiliar with safety requirements in these areas. Therefore, it may be necessary to restrict access to these areas for visitors, especially children and minors.

- 1.1 Texas statutes do not define "hazard" or "hazardous area". Instead, these are left to the judgment of reasonable and prudent persons with consideration for the age and knowledge of the visitor.

- 1.2 Department heads or directors may designate sites as hazardous and require authorization prior to entering. Upon request, Environmental Health and Safety (At TAMUQ, the OBO-HSSE office) will assist a department in identifying hazardous areas. Authorization to enter these areas should be received from the appropriate department head or director. (Restrictions under this SAP do not apply to Texas A&M University students.)

2. CHILDREN

Children under 15 are generally not allowed in any area, including laboratories and shops, in which hazardous chemicals, biohazardous materials, radioactive materials, radiation-generating devices, or dangerous equipment are located or used. Exceptions may be granted for guided tours or other reasons if appropriate precautionary measures are taken. These measures may include written consent of parent or guardian, and require direct adult supervision. Department heads or directors may require additional safety measures prior to allowing access.

3. MINORS, OTHER THAN EMPLOYEES

- 3.1 Occasionally, minors (15 years and older), may be allowed to access labs, shops, or other hazardous areas to complete science fair projects or for special educational programs. Before minors are permitted access, the following must occur:

- 3.1.1 Parent/Legal Guardian/School obtains approval from the department head or director with equivalent responsibility for the area to be toured or accessed.
- 3.1.2 The host department has a signed Parental/Legal Guardian Consent on file for the minor.
- 3.1.3 Detailed safety instructions are provided prior to commencing projects and minor is personally accompanied at all times by a University staff member who is trained and knowledgeable of the area's potential hazards.
- 3.1.4 The trained University staff member uses reasonable efforts to ensure that the minor is NOT placed into a situation where he/she may endanger the health and safety of self or others.
- 3.1.5 Department heads or directors may require additional safety measures prior to allowing access.
- 3.1.6 Minor is provided appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

- 3.2 Pursuant to [System Regulation 24.01.08, *Minors in Labs*](#), all Campus Programs for Minors must adhere to the requirements outlined therein regarding minors in laboratories and other hazardous areas.

4. ADULT VISITORS

It is relatively common for adults who are neither students nor employees (visiting scientists, non-registered students, etc.) to work in labs, shops, or other hazardous areas. These individuals should receive the same safety instructions and personal protective equipment as

employees. Department heads or directors may require additional safety measures prior to allowing access.

5. OTHER VISITORS

Any other visitor to hazardous areas (excluding guided tours) must be provided written or oral instructions regarding safety measures and emergency procedures commensurate with the hazards to which they will be exposed. Such instruction must be properly documented by the person providing the training.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Supplements [System Policy 24.01](#) and [System Regulation 24.01.01](#)

[System Regulation 24.01.08, Minors in Labs](#)

Contact Office

For SAP interpretation or clarification, contact [Environmental Health and Safety](#) at 979-845-2132.

- At TAMUQ, contact the OBO-HSSE Office at 974-4423-0032

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: [Environmental Health and Safety](#)

- At TAMUQ: The Office of Building Operations and Health, Safety, Security & Environment