

Save money and time using a chemical inventory

As some of you might know, there are many benefits of a chemical inventory for example, but not limited to:

1. Saving money and space by reducing or completely eliminating unnecessary purchases
2. Saving time by maintaining stock at an appropriate level (Don't run out, but don't buy too much)
3. Increasing efficiency by making chemicals easy to locate
4. Knowing when to remove old or expired chemicals
5. Identifying chemicals with specific shelf life and specific storage requirements
6. Get your lab up and running again quickly after an emergency. By helping emergency response personnel, including the Fire Department, make crucial decisions about your lab based on the chemical information. This will minimize delays in the Fire Departments response to serious spills or fires, thus minimizing damage and lost research.

New, Free Technology to Help with your Chemical Inventory

MIT has purchased a new inventory system, ChemTracker to help you with your chemical inventory. It is a Consortium system designed by Stanford University. 26 other university and colleges are members, including Stanford, Boston College, Harvard and Penn State to name a few.

If You Have An Existing Inventory

Using the Chemtracker templates you can organize your existing chemical inventory with help from the EHS office and then it can be uploaded into Chemtracker.

ChemTracker Key Features

1. Easy to use data entry
2. Entry by CAS, Product Number or Chemical Name
3. Has 15,000 classified chemicals already in the system allowing for Auto fill in other required fields. 9.3 million total products in the system.
4. Bulk updating of chemicals when a lab moves

Additional ChemTracker Features

1. Sharing of chemicals if appropriate, to keep you doing your research instead of placing orders and waiting for shipments or cost of removing unused chemicals
2. Many search options including by hazard
3. Authorization facilitated system
4. Easy access to MSDS and other safety information
5. Access to compatibility and storage information
6. Ability to search by chemical structure
7. Information on possible substitutions
8. ChemDraw plug in

9. Redundancy in data security
10. Ability to retrieve deleted or historical inventory
11. Local tech support
12. Ability for multiple users to use the system simultaneously

Keep MIT Green and in Regulatory Compliance

Help keep MIT green and in compliance with regulatory requirements. With a chemical inventory, less over purchasing will lead to less chemical waste. This will save MIT and your lab money as well as keep MIT as a leader in environmental stewardship.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has published chemicals security rules on December 28, 2006 to prevent potential misuse of certain chemicals. There are currently 344 Chemicals of Interest listed in the draft version of Appendix A many of which are used at MIT.

All facilities that have any of these chemicals in quantities greater than the Screening Threshold Quantity must complete a "Top-Screen", which will be used to categorize these facilities into one of four tiers, with Tier I as the highest risk tier.

Future Chemtracker Enhancements

1. Purchasing interface that allows easy chemicals ordering
2. Bar coding
3. Ability to compile SARA reports

Colleague ChemTracker Success

There are several labs at MIT using ChemTracker already; here is what some have to say.

The system has definitely been helpful. Given how many places we store chemicals; it makes it easy to track them down. Often times before we used Chemtracker it was easier to buy something than find it. With full lab cooperation and the auto-catalog search it really is definitely worth the commitment.

-Nick Piro: Cummins Lab Chemistry

What Do You Need To Know To Get Started Using ChemTracker

Working with the EHS office and your Department EHS Coordinator, you will get trained on how to use Chemtracker and decide the best implementation strategy for your lab. Contact your EHS Coordinator to schedule a training session.