



The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for protecting and restoring Maine's natural resources and enforcing the state's environmental laws.

Mission: Legislative mandate directs DEP to prevent, abate and control the pollution of the air, water and land. The charge is to preserve, improve and prevent diminution of the natural environment of the State. The Department is also directed to protect and enhance the public's right to use and enjoy the State's natural resources. The Department administers programs, educates and makes regulatory decisions that contribute to the achievement of this mission. In pursuing this mission, it is the policy of the Department to treat its employees and the public with courtesy, respect and consideration and to be fair and honest in its dealings, and to be mindful of the special qualities that make Maine a unique place to live and work.

Activities: The Department engages in a wide range of activities. It makes recommendations to the Legislature regarding measures to prevent, minimize and eliminate environmental pollution; issues licenses; initiates enforcement actions; and provides information and technical assistance. The DEP serves as the main link to the federal government on environmental issues and administers some federal programs. Working with the general public, legislators and state and municipal agencies, department staff implement environmental laws and programs.

Organization: The Department is organized by environmental media into four bureaus – Air Quality, Land Resources, Remediation & Waste Management, Water Quality – and the Office of the Commissioner, which includes the Office of Communications & Education, the Policy Development & Implementation Unit and the Office of Innovation and Assistance. Within this structure, department leadership continues to implement organizational improvements that will enhance the

Out of Control:

State and federal agencies are very serious when it comes to controlled substances.

And you should be too.

By Vince McLeod | December 03, 2015

(Contributed by Jessica Tyre via <http://www.labmanager.com/lab-health-and-safety>)

Handling Controlled Substances

Our bet is that many of you are wondering what we mean when we talk about controlled substances. The rest are probably thinking "What's the big deal?" Granted, when it comes to dealing with controlled

What do you need to do?

Now that you know what constitutes a controlled substance, what do you need to do?

First, you need to understand that the controlled substance schedules currently list approximately 160 specific substances, and they do not constitute a comprehensive listing of all controlled substances. The schedules describe only basic or parent chemicals and do not list all the salts, isomers and salts of isomers, esters, ethers, and derivatives, which may be controlled substances. If a substance is an analogue and is structurally or pharmacologically substantially similar to or is represented as being similar to a Schedule I or Schedule II substance and is intended for human consumption but not an approved medication in the United States, it can be treated as a Schedule I substance for criminal prosecution.

Second, this article is intended to address the use of controlled substances in research, instruction, and analytical laboratories. It is not our intent to include medical clinical activities, medical veterinary hospitals, or pharmacies, which are governed by federal and state accrediting and regulatory agencies and are subject to review and audit by those agencies.

Third, and this is the main focus and information, you should take away, before you begin using any controlled substance in your lab; you should have all the appropriate licenses and registrations and have a robust program in place for managing these materials.

Staying in control

The heart of proper controlled substance management is a well-thought-out, comprehensive program including vigorous training, record keeping, surveillance, and follow-up. There are many excellent programs readily available, as a quick internet search will show. No matter which one you choose as your model, ensure that it meets all the requirements. It should cover all the basics mentioned above plus responsibilities of all stakeholders, licensing and registration, purchasing, receiving, storage, and disposal. In addition, pay extra attention to access restrictions, personnel screening, spill procedures, and handling diversion, loss, or theft.

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