

SUBJECT: Ames Blue Alert: Inspector General's Office Audit: Shock Sensitive Compounds

(NOTE: This e-mail is being sent to all Ames Laboratory Group/Section Leaders and Safety Coordinators/Representatives and addresses a chemical management issue. If you do not use chemicals, please disregard.)

A representative of the Inspector General's Office at Oak Ridge visited Ames Laboratory on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The purpose of the visit was to assess the Laboratory's chemical management practices related to shock sensitive compounds. Shock sensitive compounds are listed in ISU's Chemical Hygiene Plan and include chemicals that form peroxides (I've attached the relevant lists from the Chemical Hygiene Plan for your perusal).

According to the Chemical Hygiene Plan, peroxide-forming chemicals are to be labelled with 1) date of purchase and 2) date the container was opened. These materials are to be disposed of 6 months after opening or 12 months after purchase.

The inspector found numerous examples of peroxide-forming chemicals that were not dated or had exceeded the 6 or 12 month disposal requirement.

In consultation with the DOE and Dr. Barton, the following actions are required to correct deficiencies identified in the audit related to peroxide-formers:

- 1) Review your chemical inventory for peroxide-forming chemicals as listed on the attached lists.
- 2) Identify materials that have exceeded the 6 or 12-month storage requirement as stated in the ISU Chemical Hygiene Plan and contact ESH&A (294-2153) to arrange for disposal.

CAUTION! Extreme care should be taken when assessing chemical containers that are obviously old or show any signs of degradation (formation of crystals, murky in appearance). These signs may indicate the formation of explosive peroxides. Do not attempt to move the containers and call our office immediately for assistance.

If you have any questions on this e-mail or the attached information, please contact ESH&A at 294-2153. Thanks for your attention to this important safety matter.

JHW