

## Hazardous Lecture Bottle Purchase and Use Policy

### Applicability

This policy applies to all university personnel purchasing or using the category of small cylinders of compressed gas or liquids under pressure called "lecture bottles."

### Purpose

To eliminate the generation of lecture bottles of unknown contents and those with known contents which cannot be economically disposed.

### Policy

Researchers should comply with the following:

- Do not purchase cylinders from suppliers who are not willing to accept back cylinders that still have contents.
- If this is not possible, plan to use all the bottle contents or develop procedures to destroy any hazardous constituents remaining.
- Comply with all safety recommendations from the supplier of the bottle and from the supplier of the regulator or manual control.
- Insure that any fixtures attached to the lecture bottle comply with the manufacturer's instructions
- Insure that purging procedures are complied with if applicable
- When the lecture bottle is empty, mark it as such with an indelible marker.
- If the cylinder contained poison gas or liquid, contact [Steve Shaw](#) or [Terri Wolejko](#) as soon as empty for disposal instructions or call EHS @ 545-2682. Some bottles are hazardous even when empty.
- When finished, contact [Steve Shaw](#) or [Terri Wolejko](#) for disposal instructions, if needed. **DO NOT** store unneeded lecture bottles of hazardous gases for some possible future use.

### **Reason**

Disposal of hazardous lecture bottles is one of the most difficult, expensive waste management operations. Few suppliers are willing to take back their cylinders. Lecture bottles with unknown contents can cost thousands of dollars to dispose. Old bottles can also pose a significant hazard to both lab personnel and others. Small leaks in storage can damage nearby equipment.

*Adopted by the Chemical Hazards Committee, November 1994*