**University of Würzburg**



Office of Occupational Health and Safety, Animal Welfare and Environmental Protection

# Safety Guidelines

**Ultraviolet Light**

Last update:

Workplace/activity:

|  |  |
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| **Scope** | |
|  | Safe use of ultraviolet light.  Ultraviolet (UV) light is invisible, high-energy light in the 1 to 400-nm wavelength region of the electromagnetic spectrum. UV light is also present in sunlight; most of it is absorbed in the atmosphere before it reaches the Earth’s surface. |
| Safety, health, and environmental risks | |
| L:\StabsstelleAU\Fischer\Ingrid\Betriebsanweisungen\Symbole\W26.WMF | * Eye irritation and injury, blindness, skin irritation. * Respiratory tract irritation from high output UV lamps that cause oxygen to be converted into ozone. * Heat burns from hot UV lamps. |
| Safety practices | |
| L:\StabsstelleAU\Fischer\Ingrid\Betriebsanweisungen\Symbole\M01.WMF | * Prevent unauthorised access to work area. * Always use UV lamps with the **transformers that were delivered with them**. * Avoid exposure of UV lamps to vibration or shock. * Avoid turning UV lamps on and off at frequent intervals. * UV lamps (high output lamps in particular) become very hot; always ensure they are cooled efficiently. * Always wear UV protective safety glasses when UV lamp is on! Always wear safety glasses designed for the specific wavelength and power of the UV emitting device being used. * **Never look into a UV lamp while it is on!** * Cover light sources with opaque (non-combustible) material, e.g. aluminium foil. * When working with high output ozone producing lamps, always work in a fume hood or use a suitable local extractor. |
| **What to do in the event of malfunction** | |
|  | * Turn off device and disconnect it from power supply. * Immediately notify supervisor or other competent individual. * All malfunction diagnoses and repairs must be performed by qualified personnel. |
| **What to do after an accident** | |
|  | * **Call 112 to alert emergency responders.** * If individuals suffered corneal flash burns, cover their eyes with a clean cloth and make sure they are taken to the University Eye Clinic for treatment. * Report accident. |
| **Maintenance, waste disposal** | |
|  | UV lamps must be treated and disposed of as hazardous/special waste. The Technical Maintenance Service Centre is available to assist with disposal where needed. |

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Date Signature

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| June 2021 |