**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.
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| 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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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 |