

Dear Department Chair Research Laboratories,

A new Fire Department (FDNY) Fire Code goes into effect in New York City on July 1, 2009. Two of the new Code's provisions directly impact FDNY permitted laboratories as follows:

- (1) oxygen (O₂) sensors are required when storing or handling 60 gallons or more of cryogenics; and
- (2) black-out and laser curtains are required to be "inherently fire-resistant".

To this end, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) has been working with FDNY to properly address these code requirements. Solutions have been identified and will be implemented over the summer. EH&S is currently working with Principal Investigators who will be impacted by this regulation and attached is a communication that will be distributed to all Principal Investigators regarding these new regulations.

EH&S has paid for a number of O₂ sensor devices to implement the new regulation. The University is partnering with *TechAir* to install and maintain the O₂ sensors. Laboratories that require a sensor, will be invoiced for the monthly maintenance of approximately \$20.00, which includes calibrating the device semi-annually and replacing the internal sensor annually. This charge will be added to the invoice for the cryogenic gasses.

EH&S has compiled a list of the permitted laboratory locations requiring fire-resistant black-out or laser curtains and will be arranging for replacement with "inherently fire resistant" curtains. These curtains will not require yearly maintenance. EH&S is funding the replacement in laboratories that require inherently fire resistant curtains.

Installation of O₂ sensors and black out curtains will begin over the summer. For any questions about the new FDNY Code, please contact me @ kc298@columbia.edu. I hope that you will speak with your Principal Investigators about these new regulations, the impact they may have on their laboratories and what the University is doing to assist. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Crowley, Associate VP
Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S)