

Dear Principal Investigator,

The new NYC fire code **requires** laboratories storing or handling greater than 60 gallons of cryogenic liquid gases such as liquid nitrogen to have the presence of a special FDNY Certificate of Fitness (G-97 COF) holder qualified to supervise the handling and use of these materials in addition to an oxygen sensor

(<http://ehs.columbia.edu/New%20Fire%20Code%20email%207-1-08.pdf>).

Many of you are familiar with the FDNY requirement that each lab have at least one person present at all times possessing a COF (C-14) for the general supervision of labs. With the new fire code, labs storing more than 60 gallons of liquid cryogenics must have an additional COF for the use of cryogenics, known as the G-97. Several laboratories have already complied with this new code, however all labs exceeding the threshold **must** have at least one G-97 holder.

To streamline this process with minimal burden on the labs, EH&S has created an Alternative Issuance Program (AIP). All C-14 holders in labs with cryogenics are encouraged to look into this, as it can be completed online. Those without a C-14 can do this as well. For details on this program and other implications of the new fire code, please visit our website (<http://ehs.columbia.edu/Firecodes.html#g97>).

For any questions, please contact:

Morningside – Jerry Meehan 854-8749 (JM2143)

Medical Center – Ed Moran 305-6780 (ESM2136)

Please note that effective July 1, 2009, the FDNY inspector will be looking for G-97 holders in addition to an Oxygen sensor in labs with 60 or more gallons of liquid cryogenics. It is important that this certification be obtained as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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Kevin McGhee
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