

# Spotlight On Safety

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## FUME HOOD CERTIFICATIONS & SAFE PRACTICES

EH&S provides annual fume hood certifications for all campus fume hoods. The annual certification is a performance evaluation to ensure that the fume hood is functioning properly and protecting you from harmful materials. However, unsafe practices along with material accumulation within the hood can lead to exposure and accidents regardless if the fume hood is working properly.

### *What Does the Certification Process Examine?*

- Adequate inward airflow
- General airflow patterns
- Maximum use sash height

### *Certification Sticker*

- Every in-service fume hood should have a yellow "certification" sticker attached to its frame containing:
  1. Date
  2. Linear feet per minute (LFM) - at least 100 LFM
  3. Initials
- Out of service fume hoods are identified by an "Out of Service" notice posted on the sash of the hood and do not have the yellow certification sticker
- The most recent date on the sticker should be within one year of the current date for its "certification" to be current

### *Fume Hood Safe Practices*

- Keep **only** necessary items in hoods, don't overcrowd them – materials block the air flow into the intake slots at the back of the hood and significantly reduce performance (raise permanent equipment on a jack and keep it at least 6" inside the hood to let air to flow into the lower slot)
- **Don't** store chemicals in hoods, this will decrease the chances of a small fire or explosion turning into a big problem
- Work 6 inches **inside** of hood, not on the edge
- Keep sash **below** "arrow" sticker on hood frame, or lower if possible, and close it when the hood is not being used
- If the alarm activates, lower the sash a little until the alarm stops - **DON'T** disengage or over-ride the alarm (call EH&S if your alarm sounds consistently)

Visit [www.ehs.ucr.edu](http://www.ehs.ucr.edu) for additional information or call 951-827-5528 if you have any questions.