

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

File: EBAA

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

Regional School Unit No. 18 is committed to providing a safe environment for students and employees. It is the policy of Regional School Unit No. 18 to follow safe practices in regard to the storage and handling of hazardous chemicals in its schools. The School Unit will comply with all applicable Maine and federal laws and regulations concerning hazardous chemicals.

The Superintendent will be responsible for developing a Chemical Hygiene Plan* that includes procedures relevant to the identification, purchase,** storage, inventory, handling, and disposal of hazardous chemicals, maintenance of material safety data sheets (MSDS), and for ensuring that employees are provided required training and information concerning hazardous chemicals used in the schools. The Superintendent may delegate responsibilities associated with Plan development to school system staff, as appropriate or, with the approval of the Board, to a professional consultant.

[*NOTE: The Maine Department of Labor has a sample Chemical Hygiene Plan for Maine Schools on its website at www.maine.gov/dep/mercury/school.htm. Electronic inventory tools are also available on that website.]

[NOTE: Section 2(A) of Department of Education Rule Chapter 161, Purchase and Storage of Hazardous Chemicals, presently requires a “Hazardous Chemical Screening Process” to be established in each school administrative unit to review and approve the purchase of any hazardous chemical required by any department for academic or service functions.]**

The Superintendent/designee will appoint a Chemical Hygiene Officer for the School Unit. The Chemical Hygiene Officer will have the primary responsibility for implementing the School Unit’s Chemical Hygiene Plan. The person appointed Chemical Hygiene Officer should be familiar with State and federal regulations pertaining to laboratory and chemical safety and the chemicals used in the schools.

The Chemical Hygiene Office shall achieve such certification and/or attend such training as may be mandated by the Maine Department of Education or other State agencies.

[NOTE: At present, the Maine Department of Labor offers training related to chemical hygiene, but there is no statutory or regulatory requirement that a person be specifically trained or certified before being designated as a school unit’s Chemical Hygiene Officer. On May 10, 2005, the Commissioners of the Departments of Education and Environmental Protection sent a memorandum to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources in response to the provisions of L.D. 1157, An Act to Protect Children from Toxic Chemicals in Schools, and the Committee’s directive to the DOE and DEP to develop a proposal to resolve the issues involved. The proposal outlined some potential changes to DOE Rule Chapter 161, including certification of training for hazardous chemical officials (chemical hygiene officers) or science teachers from each school and chemical management training for those who need it.]

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

File: EBAA

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200
26 M.R.S.A. § 565

Ch. 2 § 179 (Dept. of Prof. Regulation Rule)
Ch. 161 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)
Commissioner's Administrative Letter No. 33, June 9, 2005
(Chemicals in Schools)

Cross Reference: EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Date of Adoption: April 16, 2009

Policies/RSU No. 18 Policies/E – Support Services/EBAA – Chemical Hazards