The Laboratory Self Audit (LSA) is an annual self-inspection geared towards cultivating a safety culture and instilling resilience in FIU’s laboratory community by enforcing regulatory compliance and safety initiatives. The Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) identifies trends in the information to encourage a safer working environment through safety initiatives, campaigns, and educational moments in our Safety Seminars. Visit the EH&S Website for more details here: ehs.fiu.edu

Below is a breakdown of the LSA's participation, hazard analysis, and top compliance gaps.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE LSA

The LSA has eight (8) major sections; the first two (Identification and Inventory) gather information about the participant, the location, and the hazards within the space. The following two sections (General Safety and Administrative) ask questions about controls in the area, like personal protective equipment, fire safety, electrical safety, visual inspections, and required documentation. The last four sections are specific to hazards: special hazard safety, chemical safety, hazardous waste and satellite accumulation area safety, and safety equipment.

PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

In 2022 a total of 518 Laboratory Self Audits (LSAs) were submitted, yielding a 31% increase from the previous year (356 in 2021). Since 2017, there has been a steady increase in participation.

The participation included 78% Research and 22% Academic spaces from 13 colleges and departments.

Participation spanned 8 of FIU’s campuses and satellite sites.

HAZARD ANALYSIS

EH&S has various safety programs designed to maintain a safe and environmentally conscious working environment by providing a basic foundation, clear guidance, and resources for the FIU community.

For more information on EH&S’s Safety Programs, visit our webpage here: https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/index.html

The top five hazards identified in the 2022 LSA that are handled, used, stored, or processed at FIU are represented below.

COMPLIANCE GAP ANALYSIS

EH&S uses the LSA to identify trends to encourage a safer working environment through safety initiatives, campaigns, newsletters, educational moments, and Safety Seminars.

Below are the top 5 compliance gaps discovered in the 2022 LSA.

- 43% of participants did not have Emergency Procedures displayed in the area. Emergency Procedures must be displayed and reviewed annually by all space occupants. The four emergency procedures required to be printed and posted in the space are Hazardous Spill, Incident/Injury, Evacuation, and Shutdown.

- 41% of participants noted that "On-The-Job Safety Training" was not delivered to all space occupants. Supervisors must provide on-the-job safety training regularly to all space occupants for all hazards and as new hazards are introduced.

- 37% of participants do not have first aid kits in the space. Each space must ensure that first aid kits are visible, accessible, and restocked periodically. Consumable items, like triple antibiotic ointments or burn creams, must be individually packaged.

- 32% of participants recorded that Emergency Procedures are not accessible to all space occupants. Emergency Procedures must be reviewed annually and accessible at all times to all space occupants.

- 28% of participants documented having a freezer in their space but not having an inventory that was current or displayed on the unit’s exterior. EH&S requires all freezers and refrigerators to have a current inventory of all materials/items within, displayed on the unit’s exterior.