

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT**

**PROHIBITION OF STORAGE OF FLAMMABLES IN REFRIGERATORS  
AND FREEZERS THAT ARE NOT CERTIFIED FLAMMABLE STORAGE  
OR EXPLOSION-PROOF**

By signing this memorandum, the Principal Investigator certifies that he or she will not place, or allow to be placed, flammable substances in the non-explosion/flammable storage proof refrigerator or freezer identified below and that all laboratory personnel have been so instructed.

Flammable substances are substances having flashpoints below 100°F; they include acetone, methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, and diethyl ether.

He or she also certifies that no food or beverage will be stored in units in which laboratory chemicals, including radioactive materials and biohazardous materials, are stored.

**INFORMATION**

New York City Fire Department Codes (RCNY Chapter 10) and the National Fire Protection Codes prohibit the storage of flammables in "ordinary household" refrigerators or freezers to prevent explosions caused by ignition of flammable fumes by incidental sparks from the compressor motors of the units.

The storage of food and beverages in refrigerators containing chemicals violates good laboratory practice (e.g. Prudent Practices for Research Laboratories, the National Academy of Sciences) since the potential for contamination of the food and subsequent accidental ingestion is greatly increased.

"Flammable Storage or Explosion Proof" refrigerators are usually clearly labeled as such; any refrigerator not so labeled is considered to be of "ordinary household" type.

When the unit is delivered, notify EH&S (Telephone Number: (212)305-6780) so that we can place the appropriate caution labels on its door.

Purchase Requisition Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of unit(s): Building: \_\_\_\_\_ Room(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser (if different from Principal Investigator): \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator (sign): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EH&S Approver: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax completed form to EH&S at (212)795-5847 to obtain prior approval required for EZ-PO**