

Safety Alert – April 2022

Subject: Incorrect use of Dangerous Goods (DG) Storage Cabinets

UNSW Safety are issuing a Safety Alert to remind staff and students that DG storage cabinets are built for purpose to meet legislative requirements and relevant Australian Standards. **The type of dangerous goods stored and the labelling of DG storage cabinets must not be changed by users.**

Background:

During a routine induction in the Chemical Waste Room in E26 LG026 it was noticed that some of the DG storage cabinets had been relabelled to change the type of DG stored, without consulting with the Safety Team and without notifying the other users of the Chemical Waste Room. The Chemical Waste Room offers different DG storage cabinets (corrosive, flammable and toxic), to ensure waste is stored safely, appropriately and segregated as required. Users must not change the label and type of DG stored in a DG storage cabinet without consulting with the Safety Team.

Actions taken following the incident:

The DG cabinets have been labelled according to manufacturer specifications and chemical waste has been relocated to the appropriate DG storage cabinets. All users with access to the Chemical Waste Room have been notified of the events and reminded that DG cabinets are built for purpose and can only be used to store dangerous goods according to manufacturer specifications.




What is recommended going forward:

Staff and students are reminded of the regulatory requirements associated with storing dangerous goods. DG cabinets for the purpose of storing dangerous goods must meet those legal requirements and the applicable Australian Standards.

Please contact your Supervisor, Lab Manager or [Safety contact](#) for further guidance on DG storage cabinets.



A summary of basic requirements for common DG storage cabinets is presented in the table below:

DG Class	Relevant Australian Standard	Cabinet Requirements
Flammable Liquid 	AS1940	Self-closing doors Class 3 label displayed on cabinet Purpose built to store Class 3 DG AS1940 compliance displayed on label Static earthing connection Vent bung – venting where required
Corrosive 	AS3780	Self-closing doors Internal door opening latch Class 8 label displayed on cabinet Purpose built to store Class 8 DG AS3780 compliance displayed on label Static earthing connection Vent bung venting where required <u>Metal storage cabinets</u> – for corrosives that can be stored in metal <u>Polyethylene storage cabinets</u> – for corrosives that are potentially damaging to metal
Toxic substances 	AS/NZS4452	Self-closing doors Class 6 label displayed on cabinet Purpose built to store Class 6 DG AS/NZS4452 compliance displayed on label Static earthing connection Vent bung – venting where required

Further Information: safety@unsw.edu.au