



Safe Custody of Chemicals in Laboratories

Many local laboratories have stored explosive precursors which are raw materials for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Flawed laboratory security measures can be easily compromised by ill-intentioned people who may steal the chemicals for criminal purposes, posing threats to public safety. It is therefore imperative for laboratory staff to stay vigilant at all times and **pay special attention to the following three aspects** :

- 1 **Stay Alert to Suspicious Persons**
- 2 **Keep Chemicals in Laboratory Under Safe Custody**
- 3 **Seek Assistance and Report**

I) Stay Alert to Suspicious Persons

Criminals often plot their plans carefully in an attempt to obtain technical information or chemicals for making IEDs through various means. For example, they may approach laboratory staff by emails or at conferences, or even make unauthorized entry into laboratories to get what they want. Under such circumstances, laboratory staff should:

- Check out the identity of the people who request the information or chemicals
- Inquire into the reasons for requesting the information or chemicals
- Decline unreasonable requests
- Report to supervisors when anything suspicious is noticed

II) Keep Chemicals in Laboratory Under Safe Custody

- Ensure that the laboratory is locked when unoccupied
- Ensure a full CCTV coverage at the entrance of the laboratory
- Install access control with audit trail
- Conduct regular stocktakes of chemicals and update the inventory records
- Beware of any inconsistencies between the actual amount of chemicals and that shown on the records
- Check for any chemicals not delivered after placing an order for some time or the delivery of any unordered chemicals
- Never hand or lend chemicals to people whose identity is unknown
- Report to supervisors when anything suspicious is noticed

III) Seek Assistance and Report

In case of **emergency** which requires police assistance at the scene immediately, please call **999**.



For **non-emergency** matters, please use the online reporting system on the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit's website.

<https://www.ictu.gov.hk/en/ct-awareness/report/>



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