| Name of Appendix: **Safety for those working with mercury** |
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| General: |  | Mercury is a toxic substance that can enter the human body in a variety of ways. Its physiological action is cumulative, which further aggravates the risk of mercury poisoning. It is very difficult to control mercury that has spilled out of its container – on the table, floor, etc. Mercury will evaporate at the ambient temperature and its concentration is liable to be much higher than the maximum permitted concentration. |
| Safety rules: |  | Mercury should be stored in cool places far from any sources of heat, and far from places with a high risk of fire. All mercury containers must be tightly sealed and have clear identification labels. Any mercury container that is fragile must be kept inside an external, non-breakable container that can hold the entire contents of the “internal” container. |
|  |  | The space in which mercury is stored or handled must be well-ventilated, including its lower parts, because mercury vapors are heavier than air and tend to concentrate near the floor. |
|  |  | In a space where mercury is handled, the air should be tested periodically for pollution from mercury vapors (using a device made by Draeger, or similar), in order to ensure that the mercury vapor concentration in the air does not exceed the permitted level (0.1 mg. per 1 cu.m.). |
|  |  | If the floor of the room where mercury is being handled is not smooth (without cracks or seams), the mercury containers must be kept on trays that can hold the amount of mercury being handled, taking into account reasonable quantities of mercury and splash distances. |
|  |  | All personnel working with mercury must change their outer clothing (including shoes) after working and going to the cafeteria for meal breaks. |
|  |  | Anytime someone leaves the laboratory, especially to eat, they must wash their hands thoroughly. Personnel leaving the laboratory for the day should be encouraged to use the shower. |
|  |  | It is strictly prohibited to eat, drink or smoke in the laboratories where mercury is being handled. |
|  |  | Working with mercury with injured hands, and with open wounds on any other exposed parts of the body, is strictly prohibited. |
|  |  | Work clothing when handling mercury must not have pockets or folds where mercury that was splashed or poured could accumulate. |
|  |  | At least every 6 months (or more, as instructed by an occupational doctor), anyone working with mercury must undergo a medical examination (general test, urine and blood tests) according to the doctor’s instructions. |
|  |  | If mercury poisoning is suspected, or if there is even the slightest sign of mercury poisoning, consult immediately with an industrial doctor in addition to the periodic routine tests described above. |
|  |  | In the event of acute poisoning (swallowing, eruption of mercury vapors, etc.), the injured person will be immediately transported to Ichilov Hospital, which offers a treatment service for poison injuries. |
| Responsible for performance |  | Responsible for performance of these directives:Head of student laboratory/head of research team handling mercury – directlyFaculty deans – administrative |