LAB COAT PROCEDURE

1.0 Introduction
This procedure describes the requirements for selecting, wearing, and laundering lab coats and applies to all WHOI personnel that work in research laboratories. The costs of the lab coat program will be covered by the EH&S office and do not need to be charged to lab projects.

2.0 Selection and Use of Lab Coats
Refer to the table below to help select the most appropriate lab coat fabric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flame resistant and chemical splash protection (Workrite® with Westex® and Nomex®)</td>
<td>Required for work with flammable/combustible liquids and pyrophoric substances. Provides chemical splash protection for small splashes of corrosives, oxidizers, and polar organic solvents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthetic and cotton blended fabrics</td>
<td>Allowable for work with low hazard materials that are non-flammable/non-combustible, including certain radiological and biological materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyvek® or similar disposable fabric</td>
<td>Allowable for work with low hazard materials that are non-flammable/non-combustible, including certain radiological and biological materials.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1) For implementation of this procedure, flammable and combustible liquids are defined together as any liquid with a flash point below 200°F.
2) A pyrophoric substance will ignite spontaneously in air.
3) Work with highly hazardous chemicals (e.g., acutely toxic) or highly hazardous work (e.g., significant skin/body exposure potential) requires a more detailed hazard evaluation and may require more protection than a lab coat. Contact the Safety & Health Officer for assistance, x2244.

3.0 Laundering Lab Coats
All non-disposable lab coats that are used in WHOI research labs should be laundered by an approved, offsite vendor. Lab coats that may contain hazardous contaminants, shall not be laundered at home. If lab coats must be laundered at home (e.g., clean lab considerations), you must contact the Safety & Health Officer (x2244) for laundering instructions and precautions.
4.0 Clean-rooms, Trace Metal and Cross Contamination Concerns
Labs that are concerned about cross contamination may order disposable lab coats or use an approved lab coat vendor that meets the required clean room, trace metal, and/or cross contamination control criteria and that complies with all applicable requirements of this procedure.

5.0 Contamination Control
Lab coats should not be worn or carried into food/beverage consumption areas, bathrooms, and conference/meeting areas.

Labs coats with significant radiological contamination (above limits in Radiation Safety Manual) should be separately bagged and managed in accordance with the Radiation Safety Manual. Lab coats that are contaminated with biological agents (Risk Group 2 or above) must be autoclaved before being disposed or returned to the lab coat vendor for laundering. Contact the Radiation Safety Officer or Biosafety Officer for assistance, x3788.

6.0 Fabric Flame Resistance and Chemical Splash Protection (FR/CP) Criteria
The FR/CP lab coat by Workrite®, with Westex® and Nomex® fabric protection, provides both flame-resistant (FR) properties and chemical-splash protection (CP). This fabric offers lightweight protection against hazards such as flash fire and small inadvertent splashes of hazardous chemicals such as acids, corrosives, oxidizers and other polar organic solvents. Nomex® IIIA fabric prevents clothing ignition during short duration thermal incidents and emergency exposure to flame. Westex® ShieldCXP repels small amounts of liquid chemicals that are either dropped or splashed on the fabric. It resists penetration and wicking of an inadvertent, secondary liquid chemical splash. This FR/CP fabric is also lightweight and breathable.