

Compatibility measures for the storage of chemicals in laboratories

Revision date: June 2007

Objective:

Separation of products that may release toxic gases or cause a fire in a reaction.

Scope:










These rules apply to the storage of base chemicals in storage cabinets.

These rules are a Code of Good Practice for the storage of other chemicals and for storage in refrigerators, deep-freezers, weighing rooms, sampling rooms, etc.

Definitions:

- Separated = in a separate cabinet *OR* on a separate shelf *OR* in separate drip trays on the same shelf.
- Solvent cabinet = fire-resistant cabinet with spill collection trays and ventilation.

Basic rules (to be applied in sequence):

1. The following rules are applicable to all quantities:
 - 1.1. Explosives (E, ) shall be stored separately (for the list of these substances, see the Prevention Services website > safety > hazardous materials).
 - 1.2. Strong oxidizing products (O, ) shall be stored separately (for the list of these substances, see the Prevention Services website > safety > hazardous materials).
 - 1.3. Very toxic (T+, ) chemicals shall be stored separately.
 - 1.4. Narcotic substances shall be stored separately and kept under lock and key.
2. The following rules are applicable to quantities of > 250g or 250ml, but are also a Code of Good Practice for smaller quantities:
 - 2.1. Acids shall be stored separately.
 - 2.2. Bases shall be stored separately.
 - 2.3. Extremely inflammable (F+, ) , highly inflammable (F, ) , inflammable and combustible products shall be stored separately, preferably in a solvent cabinet.
 - 2.4. Toxic (T, ) , irritant (Xi, ) and harmful (Xn, ) substances and products classified as dangerous for the environment (N, ) shall be stored separately.