



The University of Hong Kong

SAFETY MATTERS

Import of Chemicals

Inter-disciplinary research is becoming increasingly common in tertiary institutions. Cross boundary research requires the use of a wide variety of reagents which might be controlled chemicals.

Recently, a local institution was prosecuted and convicted for importing controlled chemicals from overseas, in breach of the Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance.

In Hong Kong, there are several ordinances and regulations that govern the use of chemicals which include:

1. Import and Export Ordinance, Chapter 60
2. Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Chapter 134
3. Control of Chemicals Ordinance, Chapter 145
4. Dangerous Goods Ordinance, Chapter 295
5. Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance, Chapter 578
6. Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance, Chapter 595

Please bring this to the attention of your staff/students who are involved in the purchasing process of chemicals, and make sure that they pay particular attention to the followings:

- It is strongly recommended that chemicals should be purchased through local chemical suppliers.
- If purchase must be made directly from overseas/online, please make sure relevant licence, if required, is obtained prior to any shipment.
- Never attempt to hand-carry any chemical from overseas after your trip.

If you need advice or assistance in the above matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Safety Office on 2859 2400 or email safety@hku.hk.

Dr Edmund Hau
Director of Safety

October 2016