



January 22, 2008

To: All Departments in Lab. Block of FMB

Ref.: Chemical Waste Disposal

From time to time, the Safety Office has been prompted to investigate obnoxious smell detected in various parts of the Laboratory Block. The odour in general are alleged to have created discomfort, anxiety, safety concern which are more a nuisance nature rather than safety. Most of the findings of our investigations suggest that the source of the unknown odour stems from the drain plumbing of the sinks in the laboratory. Most probably, chemical solvents have been emptied casually into the sink and spread to various locations and floors via sink openings with dried up U-traps.

As a measure to make the FMB a safe and healthy environment, Head of Departments are requested to bring the following information and action to the laboratory users, both students & staff, of the Building.

- (1) It is an offence in law to dispose of chemicals or solvents into the drainage system. The Environmental Protection Department takes a serious view of the matter.
- (2) All chemical and solvent waste must be retained temporarily in designated containers. In case of doubt, please contact the D.G. Manager, Peter Yeung, at 2859 2402.
- (3) All Departments are equipped with proper chemical waste disposal containers for collection and ultimate disposal by the Safety Office.
- (4) U-trap of the sinks dries up pretty quickly if the sink is left unused for a prolong period of time. It is useful to regularly run the sink with tap water.

Yours faithfully,

Rheo Lam
Acting Director of Safety

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c.c. Mr. H.S. So – Estates Office (for FMB Management Office)

(d)Irene/.../Foul Sewer Smell Jan08

