



OFFICE OF ENGINEERING SAFETY
 Dwight Look College of Engineering * Texas Engineering Experiment Station
 Providing a safe and healthful environment for scholarship and research



Barrel & Drum Handling

Download additional self-inspection checklists at <http://engineering.tamu.edu/safety/>

Date _____ Room No. _____
 Inspector _____ Location _____
 Faculty/PI _____ Dept. _____

Items for evaluation	Yes	No	Comments	Actions to be taken
DRUM APPROACH				
General				
Shipping drums and containers must not be pressurized to remove contents.				
Temporary pressurized piping systems carrying hazardous liquids or gases must have relief valves and bypasses to prevent rupture and the escape of liquids or gases.				
Pressure vessels, drums and containers of toxic and flammable liquids or gases must not be stored or used where they may be subject to open flame, hot metal or other sources of artificial heat				
Barriers or guards must be erected around pressure vessels, drums and containers with 30-gallon capacities or larger that contain flammable or toxic liquids or gases (unless in an isolated, protected place).				
Fifty-five gallon (or more) containers of flammable or toxic liquids must be surrounded by dikes or pans that enclose the area and hold 25 percent of the total volume.				
Provide the number of suitable fire extinguishers in the immediate area where pressure valves, drums and containers of flammable liquids and gases are stored or in use.				
Always have extinguishers ready for use				
Hazardous Waste Operations				
Drums and containers must meet DOT,				



OSHA and EPA regulations for the waste they contain.				
Whenever possible, inspect drums before they are moved. If they are buried, move them to an accessible area and inspect them immediately.				
Unlabeled containers must be treated as if they contain hazardous substances until the contents can be identified				
Employees not involved in the opening of drums are to be kept at a safe distance.				
Drums and containers are to be opened in such a way that excess interior pressure will be safely relieved.				
When handling flammable materials, all tools and equipment must be the type that prevent Ignition.				
Drums containing radioactive wastes are not to be handled until all hazards have been assessed.				
Special precautions must be taken with drums containing shock-sensitive wastes.				
All drums and containers are to be classified before they are packaged for shipment.				
DRUM HANDLING				
General moving techniques				
Make sure that the drum is being moved in the most efficient and safest possible way.				
Make sure that the correct people and devices are involved in moving the drum.				
Lifting and Positioning the Drum				
Be aware of the danger of spillage if the drum is moved too fast.				
When possible, this task should be completed with portable equipment.				
Use a lifting truck when necessary.				
Advanced moving techniques				
Advise workers of the handling routine that will promote safety and efficiency				
This handling routine must take into				



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account the personal protection of the workers.				
Make sure that the proper storage and stacking areas are in position.				