

# SAFETY ALERT

November 10, 2022

## Food and Drink Not Allowed in Laboratory Areas

### Hazards: Chemical, Biological, Radiological Hygiene

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory restricts the consumption and storage of food and drink in laboratory areas. Consumption and storage of food and drink is prohibited in areas where potentially harmful substances are used, such as in chemical laboratories; biological laboratories; radiation work areas; and machine, welding, and craft shops. Other technical areas need to be evaluated by the Lab Area Safety Lead and/or the Environment Health Safety (EHS) Division to determine if, where, and when consumption and storage of food and drink will be permitted.

Berkeley Lab restricts the consumption and storage of food and drink in technical areas to minimize potential exposure to harmful substances, such as chemicals, biological materials, metal shavings, and other unsanitary materials. This policy:

1. Prohibits the consumption and storage of food and drink in the following locations:
  - a. Chemical laboratories
  - b. Biosafety areas, such as biosafety level 1 or 2 laboratories
  - c. Radiation areas
  - d. Machine, welding, soldering and craft shops
2. Restricts the storage and consumption of food and drink in other technical areas by requiring the area safety lead and/or EH&S to evaluate the area to determine which portion(s) may be identified and demarcated as permissible for the storage or consumption of food or drink.
3. The Lab Area Safety Lead will indicate with a door sign any conditions and locations for which food or drink consumption is permitted in the technical area (offices).

Food and drink restrictions in technical area requirements can be found in the LBNL Requirements and Policies Manual (RPM): [Food and Drink Restrictions in Technical Areas](#)

If you have any questions about food and drink restrictions in your work areas, contact the ETA Safety Manager, Ron Scholtz X8137 for assistance.