

Laboratory Ergonomics Checklist

Laboratory Benches

	Yes	No
Is anti-fatigue matting supplied to increase comfort during standing tasks?		
Does the individual wear shoes appropriate for prolonged standing?		
Is the work bench height appropriate for the work performed?		
(Precision Work: 1-2" above elbow height Light Work: 2-4" below elbow height Heavy Work: 8" or more below elbow height)		
Does the individual work at a bench cut out? Is there adequate leg room?		
Is the individual able to prop a foot up on a stool or ledge?		
Do any sharp edges along the bench top have a waterfall or sloped edge OR have padding to reduce the contact pressure?		
Are items within easy reach?		

Laboratory Chairs

	Yes	No
Does the chair support the individual's low back during his/her work?		
Are the individual's feet supported by the floor, a footrest, or a foot ring?		
Can the chairs in the laboratory be adjusted to accommodate all of the individuals who need to use the chairs?		

Microscopes

	Yes	No
Is the individual able to avoid a rounded or hunched shoulder posture when using the microscope?		
Is the individual able to maintain a relatively neutral neck position (no more than 25° of forward bending)?		
Is contact pressure between the individual's forearm and hard surfaces or sharp edges avoided or padded?		
Is the microscope position at the near edge of the bench or work surface?		
Is there sufficient leg room?		
Are the individual's feet supported by the floor, a footrest, or a foot ring?		
Has the individual been shown how to properly sit at a microscope work station?		
Does the individual take hourly breaks from microscope work?		
Are additional supplies within easy reach?		



Laboratory Ergonomics Checklist

Pipetting

	Yes	No
Is the pipetter the proper size and shape for the individual?		
Are electronic pipetters provided?		
Are light-touch manual pipetters provided?		
Are latch-mode pipetters provided?		
Are the pipetters in good working condition?		
Has the individual been trained how to properly operate the pipetter?		
Does the individual pipette no more than 2 hours per day?		
Are frequent breaks provided?		
Does the individual maintain his/her wrists in a straight or neutral position while pipetting?		
Are work items within easy reach?		

Fume Hoods/Biological Safety Cabinets

	Yes	No
Are the individual's arms relaxed when working in the fume hood?		
Are work supplies within easy reach to avoid extended reaches?		
Is the individual able to view his/ her work without excessive neck flexion (> 25°)?		
Is the individual able to alternate sitting and standing while working?		

Computer Workstations

	Yes	No
Is a seat provided?		
Is the seat height adjustable to accommodate all individuals who will use the chair?		
Is lumbar support provided?		
Are the individual's feet supported by the floor, a footrest, or a foot ring?		
Is the adequate leg room?		
Is the adequate space for the mouse and keyboard to be at the same height and within easy reach? (They should be positioned so that the employee can rest their arms at their side with forearms parallel to the floor.)		
Is there adequate space to place the monitor at arm's length distance from the user?		
Is the monitor at the recommended height (the top of the screen should be at or below eye level)?		
If documents are frequently used, is there a document holder?		



Laboratory Ergonomics Checklist

Miscellaneous

	Yes	No
When performing any repetitive tasks, are frequent breaks provided?		
Are employees encouraged to change tasks every 20-30 minutes?		
Are vials easy to cap and thread?		
Are heavy items stored on lower shelves (at or below waist height)?		
Are chemical and gas valves easy to reach and operate?		
When operating a microtome or cryostat, is the employee's wrist in a neutral or straight position?		

If you answered "No" to any item, you may be at risk!

Please contact the <u>Ergonomics Program</u> or call 2-6315 for more information or to request an ergonomic evaluation of your laboratory.