REAGENT PREPARATION PROCEDURE

1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This general procedure is followed when preparing reagents used in the General Chemistry and Nutrients workgroups of the DEP Laboratory. It describes labeling and rotation of purchased materials and reagents, reagent preparation, documentation of prepared reagents, labeling of reagent containers, and disposal of expired reagents. Any specific instructions about reagent preparation that appear in the relevant SOP for the method shall take precedence over these instructions.

2. LABELING OF PURCHASED AND PREPARED REAGENT CONTAINERS

2.1. Label all shipping cartons containing reagents for the General Chemistry and Nutrients workgroups with the date received when received from the supplier (this should be carried out by the receiving room staff if the supplies are kept in storage).

2.2. Label all individual reagent containers with the following information:

- Unique ID number
- Expiration date

All pertinent information about a purchased reagent is documented by logging it into the Standard Preparation Tracker in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). A label is also printed using this module. If there is no expiration date supplied by the manufacturer for a purchased reagent or no holding time stated in the method or SOP, enter "1/1/9999" in the Standard Prep Tracker's entry field for the expiration date. In this case the module will print "None" on the label. If an expiration date is provided by the manufacturer it must be recorded on the container.

2.3. Label all prepared reagent containers with the following information each time a reagent is made:

- Unique ID number
- Identity
- Expiration date

This is achieved by logging them in to the Standard Preparation Tracker in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and printing a label using this module.

3. ROTATION OF REAGENTS

3.1. Use the oldest dated stock reagents first and replace with newer dated stock reagents as necessary. Rotate all stock reagents according to the specified shelf life.

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3.2. Holding times may vary among reagents. Refer to the analysis methods or SOPs for reagent shelf lives. Use the oldest dated working reagents first and replace with newer dated working reagents as necessary. Rotate all working reagents within the specified holding times.

3.3. Expired reagents should be discarded as soon as possible after the date of expiration. Any expired reagents used for non-quantification or method development purposes should be labeled "For Research Only".

4. REAGENT PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

4.1. Prepare reagents according to the instructions given in the methods/SOPs. The volumes prepared for the reagents may be altered by the analyst as necessary. The final concentrations of the constituents of a reagent must not be changed.

4.2. If a new bottle of reagent is opened and used with a previously opened reagent the working solution must carry the expiration date of the oldest reagent used.

4.3. All reagent preparations are documented in the reagent and standard logsheet (NU-RGTSTD-1.0). The logsheets are located at \\FLDEP1\DEAR\labs\lab3\Chem_data\Inorganic\Nutrients\REAGENT_PREP\ for each analysis. Submit the updated logsheet as part of the analysis report folder. Check the individual analysis SOP for more detailed instructions. An electronic copy of the Certificate of Analysis for each purchased reagent (if available) is also maintained in the REAGENT_PREP folder.

5. DISPOSAL OF USED AND EXPIRED REAGENTS

5.1. Refer to the MSDS for information about chemicals being used.

5.2. Review the Laboratory Health and Safety Plan (accessible on the intranet at https://www.fldepnet.org/content/dear/bureau-laboratories-safety-documents).

5.3. Refer to the individual chemistry SOPs for specific handling of reagents. Some reagents used may need to be treated as hazardous or treated prior to disposal.

6. REFERENCES

6.1. Laboratory Health and Safety Plan.

6.2. Quality Manual, Bureau of Laboratories, FDEP.

Appendix of Significant Changes

08/24/2010 Instructions in section 4.3 are modified to include the use of the reagent preparation sheet.

08/19/2014 Section 2 is modified to include the use of unique ID numbers for labeling of reagent containers.

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