

7.2.1: Title of the Practice: Laboratory safety

Objective: Establishing a dedicated office for ensuring laboratory safety across the campus; and picking up and managing chemical and other hazardous wastes from laboratories.

Context: From its beginnings, IISc has laid equal emphasis on fundamental research and the solution of practical problems. With the institute housing numerous research laboratories, safety cannot be an afterthought. To adhere to world-class safety practices, the institute created a dedicated office for ensuring safety and manage wastes from laboratories across the campus.

Practice: OLSEH or Office of Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health (<https://olseh.iisc.ac.in/>) is responsible for ensuring laboratory safety across the campus and for picking up and managing chemical and other hazardous wastes. It performs regular scheduled pickup of such materials. It also has well-established and publicized safety protocol in handling hazardous materials. OLSEH is also responsible for any emergency situation emanating out of laboratory or waste management.

Evidence of Success: OLSEH conducts safety tests which is mandatory for every student in the institute to work in laboratories. This practice ensures that the students and the campus community in general are aware of best safety practices. Since its inception, OLSEH has been successfully collecting and disposing off chemical, biological, and other wastes from laboratories, keeping the campus hazard-free.