Safety and Incident Management Plan for Metallurgy and Heat Treatment Lab

Mechanical and Production Engineering Department
Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST)

Introduction

The Metallurgy and Heat Treatment Lab at Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST) educates students on the microstructure, mechanical properties, processing techniques, and engineering applications of ferrous and non-ferrous alloys. The lab's experiments allow students to analyze strength, heat resistance, and chemical structure, essential for material safety assessments. This document provides a detailed safety and incident management plan, addressing accreditation requirements for safe lab practices and emergency response.

Safety Rules and Practices

The following safety rules and procedures are strictly enforced to ensure a safe environment in the Metallurgy and Heat Treatment Lab:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**: All lab users are required to wear PPE, including lab coats, safety goggles, heat-resistant gloves, and closed-toe shoes.
- **Restricted Access**: Only authorized students and staff are allowed access. Students must be supervised by the Lab In-Charge or Lab Assistant during experiments.
- **Safe Handling of Equipment**: Proper usage of the polishing machine, muffle furnace, and microscopes is mandatory to avoid injury. Malfunctioning equipment should be reported immediately.
- **Heat Safety**: The muffle furnace and other high-temperature equipment should be handled carefully, with clear labeling on hot surfaces. Heat-resistant gloves are required when working with or near heated materials.
- **Chemical Safety**: When preparing metallography specimens, students must follow protocols for handling chemicals and cleaning solutions. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available for all chemicals used.
- **Emergency Exits and Fire Safety**: Emergency exits are kept unobstructed, and fire extinguishers are placed within easy reach. Students receive training on fire evacuation procedures.

Incident and Accident Prevention Procedures

To minimize risk, the following preventive measures are in place:

- **Routine Inspections**: The Lab In-Charge conducts routine inspections to ensure that all equipment is in safe working condition.
- **Equipment Maintenance**: Apparatus such as the muffle furnace, polishing machine, and microscopes undergo regular maintenance to prevent malfunctions.
- **Safety Training**: All students receive safety training covering PPE usage, emergency procedures, and correct equipment handling practices before starting lab work.
- **Emergency Drills**: Regular emergency drills familiarize students with evacuation routes and procedures in the event of fire or other emergencies.

Provisions for Managing Accidents and Health Hazard Conditions

In the event of an accident or health hazard, the following provisions are in place to ensure quick and effective response:

- **Emergency Contacts**: Emergency contact information for the Lab In-Charge, Warden, Assistant Warden, and medical services is posted prominently in the lab.
- **First Aid Kit**: A fully stocked first aid kit is available in the lab, containing supplies for treating burns, cuts, and minor injuries.
- **Fire Extinguishers**: Fire extinguishers are strategically located for use during emergencies.
- **Emergency Response Protocol**: In case of an emergency, the Lab In-Charge should be notified immediately. If necessary, the Lab In-Charge will contact the Warden and Assistant Warden to coordinate with the AUST Fire/Disaster Safety Team.
- **Evacuation Procedure**: For severe incidents, such as a fire or chemical spill, students and staff should follow the designated evacuation routes to the assembly point outside the building.

Roles and Responsibilities

Lab In-Charge

The Lab In-Charge is responsible for overall safety and incident management in the lab. Key responsibilities include:

- Conducting regular safety checks and maintenance inspections.

- Providing safety training to students and staff before conducting experiments.
- Coordinating with the Warden and Assistant Warden during emergencies.
- Reporting safety concerns to the Department Head and ensuring corrective actions are taken.

Lab Assistant/Attendant

Under the Lab In-Charge's supervision, the Lab Assistant is responsible for:

- Assisting with the setup and maintenance of lab equipment.
- Monitoring students during lab sessions to ensure adherence to safety protocols.
- Reporting any equipment issues or safety concerns to the Lab In-Charge.

Warden and Assistant Warden

As part of the AUST Fire/Disaster Safety Team, the Warden and Assistant Warden are responsible for:

- Assisting with evacuation during emergencies.
- Coordinating with emergency services if required.
- Reporting incidents to the Campus Safety Task Force for further review.

Lab-Specific Incident Prevention Plan

The following guidelines apply to the Metallurgy and Heat Treatment Lab to ensure the safe conduct of activities:

1. **Cast Iron and Steel Analysis**: Proper handling of metallography samples is required to avoid injuries from sharp edges and heated surfaces. Gloves and goggles must be worn during these procedures.
2. **Use of Muffle Furnace**: The furnace should only be operated by trained personnel. Heat-resistant gloves and face shields are mandatory to prevent burns.
3. **Metallography Specimen Preparation**: Students should exercise caution when using the polishing machine and microscopes. Specimens must be securely mounted to avoid mishaps during polishing.
4. **Microscopy**: When using the inverted and optical metallurgical microscopes, students should follow all handling protocols to avoid damage to the equipment and ensure safe usage.

Conclusion

The Metallurgy and Heat Treatment Lab is committed to maintaining high standards of safety to protect all students, faculty, and staff. Through well-established safety protocols, preventive practices, and emergency response procedures, the lab provides a safe and effective environment for learning and experimentation. Regular reviews and updates to the safety plan ensure compliance with accreditation standards and evolving safety requirements.