

Environmental Health & Safety

General EH&S Requirements

The University of Washington is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for faculty, staff, students, visitors, and volunteers in all sites owned, operated, or controlled by the University. This commitment includes supporting a culture of health and safety across the University.

EH&S has responsibility for implementation of all University policies related to public, occupational, and environmental health and safety at University-owned, -operated, and -controlled sites, providing a wide range of technical services and leadership. As part of this, EH&S develops and incorporates prevention through design concepts pertaining to decisions regarding occupational hazards and risks into the design and redesign of facilities, equipment, and processes.

This section in the UW (University of Washington) Facilities Design Standard provides EH&S requirements for the safe design of UW facilities, processes, and equipment with a focus on preventing injuries/illness from hazards associated with the use, storage and transfer of hazardous materials, material handling, walking/working surfaces, safe access and maintainability, physical hazards, fire and life safety and environmental protections from hazardous contaminants.

The application of the EH&S requirements spans the lifecycle of a project, from pre-planning, design, execution, commissioning, operation, disposal, and decommissioning. The role of EH&S as directed by Executive Order 55 and APS 16.1 is to ensure the following:

- Hazards are identified, assessed, and are avoided, eliminated, or substituted (inherent safety)
- Risks derived from the identified hazards are assessed and prioritized and managed to acceptable risk levels established
- EH&S personnel are knowledgeable, competent, and consistent in hazard identification, risk assessment and selection of controls to manage risks.
- Measures to manage risks and ensure compliance are verified to be effective.
- Lessons learned from incidents, inspections and audits are incorporated into EH&S requirements to prevent injuries and illnesses from recurring.

EH&S identifies potential projects for Capital Safety funding on a biennial cycle. Projects awarded capital safety funding are managed by the EH&S Department.

For further information on EH&S Project Support and Capital Safety contact EH&S at 543-7262.

1. Application of EH&S Design Standard

The EH&S Design Standards are a supplement to the UWF Design Standards. The EH&S requirements are structured within the Facilities Design Standard format by discipline.

The Requirements in this document are based on EH&S regulations, standards, best practices and lessons learned from previous projects and shall be adhered to and incorporated into all projects and maintenance contracts, for all types of contract delivery methods.

Deviations from these requirements shall be vetted through EH&S Project Support.

Code Alternate Means and Methods or code variances that impact health and safety shall be reviewed by EH&S Project Support.

EH&S project support personnel shall be included into the business case and early pre-planning phases of all UW projects to identify the applicable EH&S requirements.