



GET into GENES

Risk Assessment
INFORMATION FOR
TEACHERS



February 2008

OH&S NOTES: GENERAL

Hazard	Controls
Slips, trips	Bags, coats and other belongings to be left in the spare lab. Spills to be wiped up immediately. Keep power cords up off the floor. Safe use of the chairs in the lab.
Illness, accident	Teachers will be asked to notify <i>Get into Genes</i> staff in advance of serious medical conditions. Staff are aware of location of emergency contact numbers / first aid contacts and location of first aid kit. Mobile phone will be available in lab at all times.
Fire	Location of fire extinguisher and blanket. Location of break glass alarm. Staff aware of exits and emergency procedures. Staff aware of nearest fire warden.
Other emergency	Staff aware of exits and emergency procedures. Location of emergency contact numbers.
Chemical exposure	Risks associated with the chemicals used in <i>Get into Genes</i> . Safe handling of these chemicals. Location and use of eyewash facility and safety showers. Material Safety Data Sheets available on request.
Other	Staff model general lab safety practices: closed-in shoes, protective clothing, gloves and safety glasses where appropriate. No eating/drinking in lab. Safe use of equipment and general awareness of the potential dangers and the safety of others. Students not to leave the lab and wander about the building.

OH&S NOTES: WORKSTATIONS

Workstation	Hazard and Control
Plant Breeding	Students are alerted that they should either refrain from touching the plants or wash their hands after doing so, as the plants may have been sprayed with fungicide. Do not eat the grains.
DNA Extraction	Students alerted to the safety sheet. Methylated spirits is a hazardous substance. It is dangerous if swallowed and may cause irritation to eyes and skin on contact and to mucous membranes and respiratory tract if inhaled. Wear protective clothing, gloves and safety glasses. Do not use the squirt bottle inappropriately. Papain is the proteolytic enzyme present in meat tenderiser. It is listed as hazardous in case of eye contact (an irritant) and inhalation and slightly hazardous in case of skin contact (again, an irritant). Although not well documented, it is possible that very rarely individuals may exhibit a severe allergy to papain. Wear protective clothing, gloves and safety glasses.
Gel Electrophoresis	Personal safety in gel preparation: observe safety instructions in prep room, wear protective clothing and use heat-resistant gloves. Ensure the power is turned off and the power cord disconnected while students are loading the gel. Students not allowed to start the gel running ... demonstrators to do this. Food dye not harmful, but may stain clothing. Protective clothing, gloves and safety glasses recommended at this workstation.
Restriction Enzymes	No real problems here. Safe use of scissors.
PCR	Staff to be aware of small spills of ice on floor, and clean up immediately. Although students are actually pipetting water, safety precautions should reflect the 'real' situation. Wear protective clothing, gloves and safety glasses.
Modelling PCR	No real problems here.