



LBNL Lab Coat Selection Assessment Tool

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

This form should be completed by the PI, a Lab Supervisor (or their designee), or the Division Safety Coordinator (DSC) to help identify the most appropriate lab coat based upon specific hazards in the laboratory. Contact your EHS assigned Health and Safety Rep or Liaison for assistance if you have any questions.

The lab/space risk level classifications (RL-A through RL-C) may be adjusted up or down as appropriate based upon the hazards and controls in the room.

Room Information:		
Building	Room	PI(s)
Person/Division Conducting Assessment		Date of Assessment
Primary Space / Room Description: (circle one)		
Laboratory	Storage	Other:

Lab/Space Risk Level Classifications: RL-A is a high risk flammable hazard classification, RL-B is a moderate risk flammable hazard classification, and RL-C is a low risk flammable hazard classification.

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">RL-A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inherent flame resistant (FR) lab coat (e.g., Nomex, Tecasafe Plus, Cool Touch 2, Tecgen) 	Handling NFPA Flammable or Combustible liquids Class I, II, or III (Quantity > than 15 liters)	Y	N
	Handling Organic Peroxide formers (Quantity > than or = to 1 liter)	Y	N
	Pyrophoric Materials are used or handled outside of a glovebox	Y	N
	High Risk Flammable Environment (open flame, distillation apparatus, heating, pressure, or other ignition source)	Y	N
	Quenching water reactive materials	Y	N

★If you answered "No" to all questions above, move onto the RL-B category. If you answered "Yes" to ANY of above questions, your lab is an RL-A space.

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">RL-B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chemically treated FR Lab Coat (e.g., Indura Ultra Soft, Arapaho, KLL6) 	Handling NFPA Flammable Liquids Class I (Quantity > 1 liter but <15 liters) or Combustible Liquids Class II, III (Quantity > 4 liters but < 15 liters)	Y	N
	Handling Organic Peroxides formers (Quantity < than 1 liter)	Y	N
	Air and Water Reactive (except pyrophorics)	Y	N
	High pressure or vacuum, rotary evaporators	Y	N

★If you answered "No" to all questions above, move onto the RL-C category. If you answered "Yes" to ANY of above questions, your lab is an RL-B space.

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">RL-C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cotton/polyester blend ⁽¹⁾ ✓ Barrier lab coat ⁽²⁾ ✓ 100% Cotton ⁽³⁾ ✓ Disposable 	Carcinogens (except biological samples stored in formaldehyde)	Y	N
	Extremely Hazardous and or Highly Toxic Materials	Y	N
	Radioactive Materials: Unsealed Source	Y	N
	Handling Biohazardous Materials	Y	N
	Corrosives (Any Quantity)	Y	N
	Working at BL1 or BL2	Y	N
	Animal Use Location	Y	N
	Nano Particles	Y	N

⁽¹⁾Cotton/polyester blended lab coats should not be used in areas where there are flammable hazards (e.g., open flame, distillation apparatus, heating, pressure, or other ignition source) or for handling any NFPA Flammable or Combustible liquids.

⁽²⁾ Barrier lab coats should only be used when working with bloodborne pathogens or other biohazardous materials.

⁽³⁾ 100% cotton lab coats may be used for handling NFPA Flammable liquids Class I (quantity < than 1 liter) or Class II or III combustible liquids (quantity < than 4 liters).

If there is a high splash hazard, employees should supplement their lab coat with an appropriate chemical and/or FR apron. Additional PPE, such as chemical goggles, face shield, and gloves may be necessary.

See the [Lab Coat FAQs](#) (ES&H Manual, Chapter 19, Appendix D) for additional information regarding the selection, use and care of lab coats.