Personal Property Management Policy

Brief

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BRIEF

Policy Summary

This policy provides guidance on the requirements for the management of personal property at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Supervisors are responsible for the proper use and control of property and supplies used by employees.

Who Should Read This Policy

All Berkeley Lab employees

To Read the Full Policy, Go To:

The POLICY tab on this Wiki page

Contact Information

Property Manager

Policy

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POLICY

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A. Purpose

This policy provides guidance on the requirements for the management of personal property at Berkeley Lab. Supervisors are responsible for the proper use and control of property and supplies used by employees.

B. Persons Affected

All Berkeley Lab employees

C. Exceptions

1. Property-removal approvals are not required when employees:
   a. Carry their Laboratory-issued cell phones for use away from the Laboratory
   b. Temporarily remove printed matter for reading and reference
   c. Take away their personal items

2. Contracted scrap and salvage dealers and refuse services are pre-approved to remove equipment, materials, and garbage from the Laboratory.

D. Policy Statement

D.1 General

1. Title: Title to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) property rests with the United States government. Laboratory policies and procedures governing the effective and efficient stewardship of government property and supplies are summarized below. The Laboratory "Personal Property Policy Manual (PPPM) (PUB-3032)" provides procedural detail and guidance for employees.

2. Charter: The Property Management Charter is twofold:
   a. Oversight and Control. Oversight and control of the Laboratory's government property are in accordance with the policies and procedures described in the PPPM.
   b. Support and Guidance. Support and guidance are provided for Laboratory personnel in the life-cycle management of their property activities, from creation of the asset record to final asset retirement from the database.

D.2 Employee Responsibilities

1. Official Use: The facilities, tools, supplies, materials, and equipment at the Laboratory are U.S. government property and are for official use only by division-authorized employees. Use for any purpose other than official Laboratory business, regardless of the location, constitutes a conflict of interest, and is illegal and prohibited. Employees who use government property for personal business or who remove property from Laboratory jurisdiction without proper authorization are subject to disciplinary action as well as prosecution under federal law (Title 18, U.S. Code). The Laboratory may impose penalties commensurate with the gravity of an improper, dishonest, or illegal offense. Consequences range from a warning or official reprimand to salary reduction, suspension without pay, demotion, or dismissal. Prosecution at the discretion of the U.S. Attorney may result in a fine, imprisonment, or both.

2. Responsible Use: Berkeley Lab policy mandates responsible use of all property in the custody of its employees. Property must be used in a safe manner, and adequate care must be taken to protect it from loss or damage. Each Laboratory division is responsible for establishing requirements that ensure the effective stewardship of its resources, including hierarchical responsibility for reporting losses and misuse of property.

D.3 Property Classifications
1. **Equipment**: Property acquired at or above $5,000 is classified as equipment.
2. **Capital Equipment**: Property acquired or valued above a $50,000 threshold is classified as Capital Equipment.
3. **Sensitive**: Property that is highly portable, easily converted to personal use, and susceptible to theft is classified as Sensitive.
4. **High Risk**: Property that is associated with nuclear proliferation and/or national security, public health, safety, and the environment is classified as High Risk.
5. **Precious Metals**: Eight DOE-designated metals with special accountability requirements are classified as Precious Metals.
6. **Controlled Substances**: Illegal drugs allowed for use in strictly regulated research activities are classified as Controlled Substances.
7. **Stores**: Miscellaneous low-value utility items are classified as Stores.
8. **Property of Others**: Property borrowed from external organizations for short-term use by Laboratory employees is classified as Property of Others.

**D.4 Inventory Requirements – General Inventory Guidance**

1. Divisions are responsible for the property under their stewardship and must account for it during inventories and/or upon demand by internal or external government auditors. Property Management plans and issues the campaigns, and supports divisions’ efforts in conducting their inventories. There are two main types of inventory:
   a. **Statistical Sampling**: Randomly selected sample representing a percentage of the total assets
   b. **Wall to Wall (100%)**: All active assets in the Sunflower Asset Management System
2. The following categories of property are subject to 100% verification of every inventory:
   a. Capital Equipment
   b. Sensitive Items
   c. High-Risk Property
   d. Precious Metals
   e. Controlled Substances
3. Inventory guidance, schedules, and forms are available on the Property Management Web site.

**D.5 Off-site Use of Property**

Divisions allow off-site use of equipment under their stewardship and issue a Property Pass to document the change of location. See D.11.4.b Division Property Pass, below.

**D.6 Loaning Property**

Laboratory property that is temporarily idle may be loaned to external organizations. Loans are arranged by Property Management and are governed by very specific U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) criteria and Berkeley Lab procedures. See LBNL Property Management Procedure, Loans.

**D.7 Borrowing Property**

1. Employees may be allowed to borrow property from external organizations for short periods of time when it is practical and economical. Property may be borrowed from another government or educational organization for use in research or from a vendor for test and evaluation. The purpose of the borrowing arrangement determines the protocol that must be followed.
2. **Use in Research**: Borrowing property for use in research requires prior authorization through the Berkeley Lab Property Management Group. Information about this organizational agreement can be found in the Property Management procedure, Borrowing Personal Property for Use.
3. **Testing and Evaluation**: Borrowing equipment for testing and evaluation is managed by divisions on behalf of their employees. See the Property Management procedure, Borrowing Personal Property for Testing.
4. In all cases where borrowed equipment may be considered hazardous, an EH&S Division Safety Coordinator must be notified to review and clear it for use.

**D.8 Property Loss or Damage**
1. **Reporting Losses**: Reporting losses of Berkeley Lab property and/or damage beyond normal wear and tear must be reported to Property Management upon discovery. If theft, vandalism, sabotage, or willful destruction of any Laboratory property is suspected, the incident must also be reported to Berkeley Lab Site Access & Security. Property losses occurring off site must immediately be reported to police in the jurisdiction where the loss occurred.

2. **Reimbursement/Liability**
   a. **Property Received or Shipped**: Employees will not be reimbursed for insurance of property that is received at or transported from Berkeley Lab to off-site locations.
   b. **Property Loaned or Borrowed for Use**: Agreements for property that is loaned or borrowed for use in research are coordinated by Property Management. Reimbursement against loss or damage is governed by the terms of each individual agreement.
   c. **Property Borrowed for Testing**: Responsibility for property borrowed from a vendor for testing and evaluation rests with the borrower and the employee’s division. Berkeley Lab’s limited liability for borrowed property must be acknowledged in writing by the loaning entity prior to its being shipped. (See the Property Management procedure, *Borrowing Personal Property for Testing*.)

D.9 Excess Property

1. Equipment, office furnishings, and other material (including software) identified as excess property are handled according to national disposition objectives, which may include redeployment within Berkeley Lab. Equipment for which there is no current or projected need should be forwarded to the Facilities Division Excess Program after review and clearance by an EH&S Division Liaison. Note: Employees are not allowed to remove government-owned property for personal use.

2. Excess equipment that is not redeployed within the Berkeley Lab complex may be transferred to government organizations or academic institutions with active DOE grants. DOE approval is required. Guidance for determining the suitability of transferring excess Laboratory equipment and the process for gaining approvals can be found on the Property Management Web site.

D.10 Storage of Property

Warehouse storage of Laboratory equipment is provided by Facilities Division Material Services/Warehouse Storage and must satisfy requirements for retention.

D.11 Property Movement Records

1. **General**: Movement of property must be well documented so that changes in location can be verified. Documentation requirements are specific to movement within and away from the Laboratory.

2. **Relocation of Property within the Laboratory Complex**: Relocation of property within the Laboratory complex is documented by a triplicate form, the Equipment Movement Tag, which is initiated and retained by the custodian of record.

3. **Property Removed from the Laboratory Site**: Except as noted above in C. Exceptions, government property shipped or carried away from the Laboratory requires prior authorization and appropriate documentation.

4. **Shipping Approvals**
   a. **Common-Carrier Shipping**: Division approval is required in all situations in which property is shipped from the Laboratory via a “common carrier.” Property that is identified by a DOE/LBNL bar-code tag is subject to additional approval by the Property Management Group. Information about shipping property off site is available from the Facilities Division Shipping Department.
   b. **Division Property Pass**: Divisions may issue a Property Pass to their employees for off-site use of government property, such as:
      i. Arrangements with suppliers performing Laboratory work if the material will remain in the custody of Laboratory personnel
      ii. Short-term or intermittent use to perform Laboratory work at home or at a Bay Area work location (e.g., Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Richmond Field Station)
      iii. Incidental use in connection with authorized attendance at a meeting, seminar, exhibit, or lecture

D.12 Property Retirement

1. The status of a property record may change from active to retired in the database if criteria are met in the following categories:
a. Abandonment  
b. Asset Created in Error  
c. Cannibalized  
d. Destroyed  
e. Foreign Donation  
f. Incorporated – Larger System  
g. Inventory Loss  
h. Lost  
i. No Longer Controlled  
j. Related Real Property  
k. Return to Vendor  
l. Return Property of Others  
m. Stolen  
n. Trade-in  
o. Transfer  

2. Each of these categories is defined in the Request to Retire Personal Property form. The form must be completed and submitted to Property Management for approval.

D.13 Property Acquired as a Gift

Any property item that has been accepted as a gift or that has been purchased with funds specifically accountable as a gift must be reported in accordance with University of California and Laboratory practices (see Gifts for Research, and Acceptance of). Gifts are accepted in the name of, and title is vested in, the Regents of the University of California. The Office of Sponsored Projects and Industry Partnerships notifies Property Management when a gift has been accepted so that an inventory record can be established.

D.14 Employee-Owned Property

Employee-owned property may not be installed in, affixed to, or made a part of any government-owned property. This restriction does not apply to small decorative items or memorabilia displayed in an employee's work area. In all cases, the Laboratory cannot be held responsible for loss of or damage to any employee-owned item.

E. Roles and Responsibilities

Managers, supervisors, and employees have the responsibility to adhere to the provisions of this policy.

F. Definitions/Acronyms

None

G. Recordkeeping Requirements

None

H. Implementing Documents

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<th>Title</th>
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I. Contact Information

Property Manager

J. Revision History

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<th>By whom</th>
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Document Information

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Source Requirements Documents

DOE O 580.1 Chg 1, *Department of Energy Personal Property Management Program*

Implementing Documents

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