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Revision: 1.0	Subject: Use of Gentian Violet	

1. Introduction

The Environmental Health and Safety Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the use of gentian violet was developed by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety in accordance with the University’s Policy Statements on Health and Safety and Environmental Management and to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation and guidelines.

Gentian violet is an antiseptic dye used to treat fungal infections of the skin (e.g., ringworm, athlete's foot). It also has weak antibacterial effects and, as a result, it has been used on minor cuts and scrapes to prevent infection. Gentian violet is also a material that, according to the safety data sheets, may result in long term adverse impacts to the aquatic environment.

Recently, Health Canada issued information states that exposures to gentian violet may increase the risk of cancer. The advice provided leads to the conclusion that applications where gentian violet comes into contact with skin should be avoided. In addition to the damage it can cause to human life and property, gentian violet is known to be very toxic to aquatic life, with long-lasting effects on the environment. For these reasons, the City of Kingston has by-laws in place prohibiting the disposal of gentian violet in the sanitary sewer.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all community members on university property and all events hosted or sanctioned by the University.

3. Applicable Legislation and Guidelines

Occupational Health & Safety Act (Part IV Toxic Substances)
 Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System R.R.O. 1990, Reg 860
 Environmental Protection Act R.R.O 1990, Reg. 347
 City of Kingston By-Law 2008-192 (Section 4.3)
 Health Canada – Information Update RA-70179



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4. Responsibilities