The Johns Hopkins University/The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Health, Safety and Environment Manual

Safety Policies:

Subject
Microwave Ovens

Keywords: electrical, electrical equipment, Microwave Oven

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I. PREFACE

Microwave ovens have been known to leak microwave radiation, which can have deleterious effects on an exposed individual. In order for persons to be exposed to harmful levels of microwave radiation, serious compromises in the integrity of the microwave oven must first occur. Examples of such defects would be cracked glass on the unit's door, deteriorated gaskets on the unit or door, or a malfunctioning interlock (the unit will not turn off even though the door is open). Also, improperly installed microwave ovens enhance the risk of fire and electrical failure. Microwaves shall not be placed in egress corridors due to this fire risk.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of Johns Hopkins to ensure that microwave ovens are properly installed and utilized.

Before procuring a microwave oven, verification of the unit's specifications by the requester for a safety warranty from Underwriters Laboratory (U.L.) or the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), shall occur. The installation of a microwave unit without certification is prohibited. Commercial grade microwave ovens are recommended for use in patient care buildings and licensed food service operations. In patient care areas where a microwave is needed for patient healing, Facilities shall be contacted prior to installation for approval of the proposed oven location.

III. REFERENCES

- Johns Hopkins Safety Manual: Policy on Non-Clinical Patient-Contact Equipment, HSE 010

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Departmental Management
   1. Contact Facilities for approval of microwave oven installation location.
   2. Inspect microwave ovens for deterioration of components on a routine basis.

B. Health, Safety and Environment
   1. Provide direction regarding selection, placement and use of microwave ovens.
   2. Monitor microwave ovens for integrity and cleanliness twice a year during Environmental Monitoring Rounds.

C. Facilities
   1. Test all microwave ovens for operational integrity, if utilized by patients.
   2. Verify proper electrical availability at proposed microwave oven locations.

V. REVIEW CYCLE

Annually

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