

## **Laboratory Rules**

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### **1. Be careful!!**

- a. It is possible to injure yourself and others in a variety of unpredictable ways. Always be aware of this possibility and try to avoid it.
- b. Follow good laboratory practices at all times.
  - i. Avoid sloppiness and clutter. These breed accidents and errors.
  - ii. Stay focused on what you are doing. Avoid distractions.
  - iii. Do not hurry. Do not be impatient.
  - iv. Connect and disconnect wires only when the system is off.
  - v. Know where and how you can immediately turn off the system if something goes wrong. Make sure that you will be able to reach the disconnect switch even though something has gone wrong. For example, you do not want to have to reach past a wildly swinging pendulum to stop it.

### **2. No food or drink of any kind is allowed in the lab.**

### **3. Keep a careful and detailed record of everything you do.**

- a. Bitter experience shows that attempts to save time in the lab inevitably waste it. Take the time to document what you have done. This can help avoid having to repeat experiments because of missing data. It can help avoid experiments that are useless because some facet is unknown.
- b. Do not try to remember what you did. Write it down.
- c. Save what you do on the computer. You do not want to lose any of your work.