

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 015
<i>Subject:</i> Microwave Ovens	<i>Last Review Date</i>	9/28/11
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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.

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 buildings, Facilities shall be contacted prior to installation for approval of the proposed oven location.

REFERENCE

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

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual: Policy on Power Distribution and Non-clinical Equipment, HSE 011

RESPONSIBILITIES

Departmental Management	Contact Facilities for approval of microwave oven installation location. Inspect microwave ovens for deterioration of components on a routine basis.
Health, Safety and Environment	Provide direction regarding selection, placement and use of microwave ovens. Monitor microwave ovens for integrity and cleanliness twice a year during Environmental Monitoring Rounds.
Facilities	Test all microwave ovens for operational integrity, if utilized by patients. Verify proper electrical availability at proposed microwave oven locations.

REVIEW CYCLE

Annual