

1.0 General Guidelines

By submitting your project to our email, contact@tsoaonline.org, or sharing it with us on Google Drive (to that same email), The STEM Organization of America (TSOA) will not be liable for any personal harm or property damage. Furthermore, by saying you agree to these terms and conditions on the form, TSOA will not be liable for any personal harm or property damage. If you have any further questions, please contact us via email.

2.0 General Safety For Experiments Conducted At Home (remember, the scoring takes into account use of resources available to you, so there is no need to use anything that you would typically see in a laboratory. We just include these guidelines in case some contestants have access to any of these materials at home)

No poisons, drugs, controlled substances, hazardous substances or devices (for example, firearms, weapons, ammunition and reloading devices)

No sharp items (for example, syringes, needles, pipettes, and knives)

Remove or otherwise shield all sharp edges or corners on prisms, mirrors, enclosures, glass and metal plates.

2.1 Fire Safety

Heat sources must not be used near combustible materials.

Open flames and heat sources must not be used unless protected

2.2 Chemical Safety

In general, dangerous chemicals should be avoided.

When chemicals are simulated, they should be labeled with the names of the substances they represent followed by the word "simulated" in brackets, e.g., ETHER(simulated).

2.3 Electrical Safety

In general, all electrical circuits, fittings, cords, switches, etc. must conform to all U.S. standards. In particular, please observe the following guidelines.

Use only extension cords and appliance cords that are in good repair and have approval. Use the lowest possible voltage.

Where practical and necessary, it is recommended that indicator lights be used to indicate that voltage is on.

An insulating grommet is required at the point where the electrical cord enters the enclosure. Electrical devices must be protectively enclosed where practical and the enclosure should be non-combustible.

All non-current carrying metal parts of an electrical apparatus must be grounded.

No exposed live parts over 36 volts are allowed.

Disconnect the power connection to your apparatus at the end of the day or the viewing period.

2.4 Structural and Mechanical Safety

Dangerous moving parts such as belts, gears, pulleys, or fan blades must be suitably guarded.