

# Safetygram

NCI-Frederick

ISM-201

General

March 2013

## Wall-Mounted Shelving

Wall-mounted shelving is widely used throughout the NCI-Frederick, and is common in business and industry. However, if used inappropriately, this type of shelving can pull away from the wall, potentially injuring personnel and damaging research in addition to possible property damage. Please take a moment to look at the shelving in your lab, office, or work area, and consider the following items.

Overall loading of shelves;

- Heavy materials should be loaded on the bottom of the unit with lighter materials at the upper levels.
- Shelves should not be tightly packed to maximum capacity from side to side.
- Shelves should not sag in the middle or between support brackets.
- Materials should not extend beyond the front edge or ends of the shelf.
- Materials should not be brought towards the front of the shelf and lined up evenly. Push materials to the back of the shelf against the wall.
- Avoid the use of heavy bookends such as bricks and large metal or stone objects.

Distribution of materials;

- Materials should be evenly distributed horizontally across the shelves and vertically along the full height of the shelving unit.

Attachment of the shelving to the wall;

- Look from the side at the shelf standards that support the shelf brackets. A shelf standard is the vertical support affixed to the wall, often made of slotted metal.
- Immediately report any pulling away or sagging outward of the shelf standards.

Accessing materials;

- When reaching above shoulder height, an approved step stool or ladder may be necessary.
- Never step on a shelf as a ladder even for a brief period of time. This will cause overloading and could result in detachment of the shelf unit from the wall.

If you have any concerns about the integrity of your shelving, please talk to your supervisor or call the Facilities Maintenance and Engineering Trouble Desk at X1068. If you believe there is a risk of collapse, unload the shelves immediately. If you have any further questions, please contact the Environment, Health and Safety Program at X1451.