



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

SAFETY, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Laboratory Door Vision Panels

Vision panels in doors accomplish a number of important functions:

- The interior of a laboratory can be observed without opening the door. This allows an event in the lab to be seen that would otherwise be unnoticed.
- In the occurrence of an event, people outside of the lab can observe the conditions and assess the risks before entering the lab.
- Vision panels allow people entering and exiting the lab to see a person on the other side of the door, reducing the potential of being hit by a swinging door, which is a particular concern in small labs and narrow corridors.
- In the case of anterooms and vestibules, vision panels allow people to see into the vestibule and anticipate when doors can be opened.
- Vision panes are a way of bringing borrowed light into interior spaces and creating a sense of openness.
- Vision panels are less expensive and use less wall space than sidelights, transoms or other glazing options.

Vision Panel Considerations

- Some laboratories may require the vision panel to be covered during sensitive operations.
- Vision Panel covers should be temporary and removed when the sensitive operation is complete.
- Vision Panel covers should be placed on the hallway side when possible.

Reference: NIH News to Use Vol.02, No.12 - December 2017
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