

Have You Read the Operating Manual?

Most lab injuries and diseases occur due to human error. One way to reduce error is by reading the operating manual for each piece of lab equipment you use.

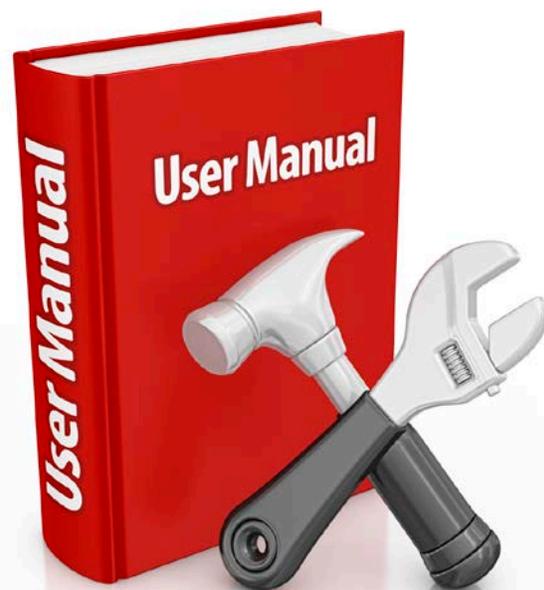
Every piece of laboratory equipment from simple hot plate stirrers to Sonifier cell disrupters to biosafety cabinets has an Operating or Instruction Manual provided by the manufacturer.

These Manuals typically include sections on unpacking, getting started, product overview, operation and a safety section. Benchmark Scientific manufactures Hotplate/Stirrers with a one page Operating Manual and section 1.5 Warning (health protection information). This section alerts the reader that this device should not be used to heat or stir flammable or combustible liquids since the surface and the electrical connections can ignite volatile vapors. The definitions of WARNING and CAUTION are often different in different Manuals but typically WARNING means that there are one or more ways the device can be misused that will result in death or serious injury.

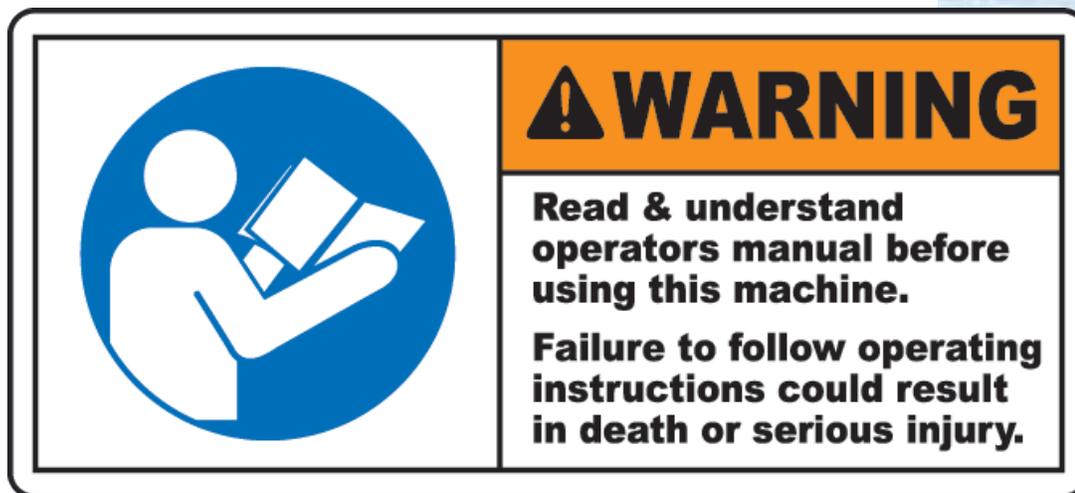
The Sonifier ultrasonic device **WARNS** that under certain conditions the noise level at the point of use can exceed 85 dBA and the operator should wear ear protection.

The Biosafety Cabinet manufacturer **WARNS** that flammable and combustible liquids and gases should not be stored or used in the cabinet because the motors produce electrical sparks which can ignite the flammable cloud resulting in an explosion!

The laboratory director or supervisor should have a readily accessible paper or electronic file of Operating Manuals for every piece of equipment in the laboratory. Before using any piece of equipment, scientists should read the Operating Manual. Paper manuals can be scanned into a single Equipment folder for ease of accessibility.



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**PLEASE DISPLAY ON COMMUNITY BOARDS OR SHARE WITH ANYONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED*