

Health & Safety Bulletin



Issue 17

September 2016

Health and Safety Conference

Thank you to all colleagues who attended the Health and Safety Conference held on 16th March in the Informatics Forum.

We hope that you found the conference interesting and helpful – we certainly did!

As part of the conference, we held a workshop discussing how the new Health and Safety Policy and Framework, and accompanying guidance should be published on our website. We felt the discussions went very well and received some excellent feedback, see link below.

Following the Conference, we also sent out an anonymous survey to all attendees. Out of the 47 School/Departmental attendees, 16 sent us feedback which is a 34% return. We have reviewed this feedback and have addressed some comments which were submitted at <http://edin.ac/2d5DZjD>



Facefit testing reminder



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All staff who, after a risk assessment has been completed, are required to wear a tight fitting face mask, must undertake a facefit test before commencing work under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. Tight fitting face masks include the following: half mask disposable, half mask reusable and full face reusable masks.

The Health and Safety Department runs the in-house facefit testing programme. Individual tests take approximately 30 minutes including respirator fit training. The test requires some simple exercises to be undertaken whilst wearing the respirator. After the test, each person will be supplied with a mask, suitable filters and a test card showing which mask they have been fitted for. Their supervisor will also receive the full results of the test.

Further information is available at <http://edin.ac/1KIXADU>

Revision of Biosafety Unit website

We are currently making some changes to the Biosafety Unit website. The following guidance documents have been updated: risk assessment, containment and control, biosecurity, and transport.

RETAIN will be accessible through this site for registering pathogens and toxins. We have provided updated links on the website to some important HSE guidance documents and regulators websites.

Please do have a look at the website here <http://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety/biosafety>

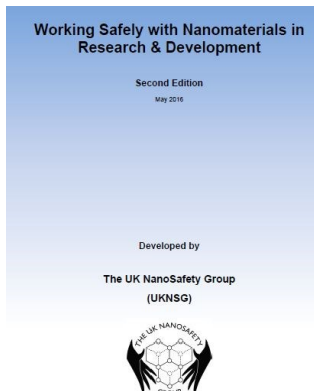


Nanosafety guidance

The UK Nanosafety Group (UKNSG) has updated and published a 2nd edition of guidance to support safe and responsible working practices with nanomaterials in research and development laboratories.

The 2nd edition of the guidance provides updates to account for changes in legislation, recent studies in the literature, and best practice since 2012. In particular, specific sections have been revised to account for the full implementation of Global Harmonised System (GHS) which came into force on 1 June 2015 through the CLP regulations. The document explains the approaches that are presently being used to select effective control measures for the management of nanomaterials, more specifically control banding tools presently in use. Significant changes can be found in the following sections: 'Hazard Banding', 'Exposure Control', 'Toxicology', and 'Monitoring'.

You can download the guidance document for free at <http://www.safenano.org/uk-nanosafety-group/>



Occupational Health Unit

With the support of the Director of Corporate Services, through the 2016/17 Planning and Budgeting Round, the re-structuring of the Occupational Health Unit (OHU) is now under way. The Unit's footprint has now extended so that they occupy the whole area of the Drummond Street Annexe building - we are indebted to the OHU's former neighbours, Staff Counselling, who we hope will be very happy in their new accommodation at Holyrood!

This extra space is vital to the Unit's ability to maximise the benefit of holding different clinics at the same time, and to us being able to accommodate a number of new staff, the recruitment of whom is about to begin.

These developments will in turn enable the OHU to better meet the challenges presented by the increased demand placed upon the service, by both the staff and student cohorts which make up the University community.

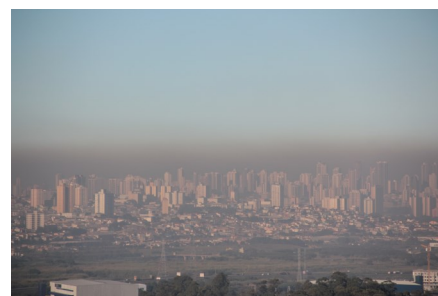


Environmental air pollution

Many countries have a much higher environmental air pollution than Scotland, sometimes at an unhealthy level - this aspect of travel and work needs to be considered prior to staff and students going to those countries.

If air pollution is a major risk of the country you are visiting, then the travel risk assessment should fully consider the risks from air pollution to which the individual(s) may be exposed, and identify suitable control measures in order to ensure all hazards are managed as far as practicable.

The Travel Risk assessment at <http://edin.ac/2d5Mawt> has been updated with an annexe of guidance to try and minimise the risk of exposure.



Contact Details

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Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research - 5th and 12th October 2016 <http://edin.ac/1N4taCS>
- Laser Safety - 14th October 2016, <http://edin.ac/2c3WzDp>
- DSE Assessor Training - 5th October 2016 <http://edin.ac/2cSPHxY>
- Cardinus (PACE) Administrator training - 19th October 2016 (am & pm) <http://edin.ac/2cXaRL8> <http://edin.ac/2cpanbv>
- Fire Stewards & Fire Extinguishers Training - 9th November 2016, <http://edin.ac/2cD4Djs>

The above courses can be booked via the MyEd Event Booking Channel.

For more information on H&S training courses go to www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/training