



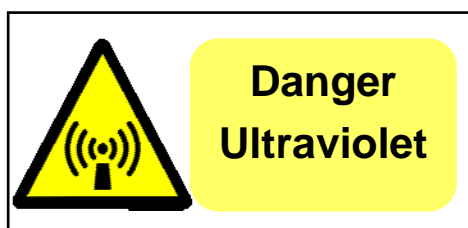
Health & Safety Bulletin

Issue 13



May 2015

Burns from UV Transilluminator



An incident occurred recently involving a UV transilluminator, in which a member of technical staff burnt her wrists whilst cutting out gel bands. Her wrists were not covered by her gloves or lab-coat cuffs. The burning was only minor, but this and other incidents, highlight that there may still be a lack of understanding of the risk from transilluminators and that safe systems of work are not always followed.

Remember that the amount of visible light is NOT an indication of the amount of UV radiation. Further information on the risk in the use of UV transilluminators can be found in the Health and Safety Dept.'s. Radiation Protection Code of Practice RP/CoP202.

<http://edin.ac/1ljinMw>

The Occupational Health Unit requires your help!

Health surveillance is a statutory requirement for people involved in certain types of work – notably including work with laboratory animals. The Occupational Health Unit (OHU) is responsible for implementing the University's health surveillance programmes, which benefit both the health of individuals, and allow the University to comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations.

The OHU is currently increasing its resources to help deal with the upsurge in individuals being referred to the Unit for health surveillance, as a result of risk assessments in their School/Research Group. This upsurge has been influenced by the gradual widening of the OHU's remit to encompass postgraduate and undergraduate students.



By far the biggest difficulty that the OHU experiences whilst implementing these statutory health surveillance programmes is the number of non attendees (up to 50%). This impacts significantly on the effectiveness and efficiency of all of our clinics, but in particular on the health surveillance clinics. Non-attendance creates a significant impact on the workload of Administrators and Advisers in the OHU, and we need to ask for your help if this applies to you. If you need to change your appointment, please let us know in time to offer the vacated appointment to someone else, please do not simply default and be labelled with "did not attend (DNA)". This is particularly important for a statutorily required health surveillance appointment, as it affects your individual health record and negatively impacts the University's ability to comply with the law. The OHU may be required to report on the actual numbers of DNAs, in order to identify clusters of non-compliance, so please let's work together to ensure that this issue is addressed.

AIR system update

The project to upgrade the functionality of the AIR system is now complete.

Improved functionality includes:

- Improved quick and advanced search
- Labelling of incidents to aid in finding similar or linked incidents
- Actions - due date now mandatory and email reminders will be sent once due date passed
- Campus drop down on the reporting form - mandatory for College of Medicine and

Veterinary Medicine incidents to aid in the automatic allocation of Area of Responsibility

- Option to print an incident as a pdf, including any comments added and a list of the actions and documents attached
- Facility to upload documents against incidents

Full details of the changes and how they work are in the user guide on the wiki on the appropriate pages <http://edin.ac/1HgKIJy> and <http://edin.ac/1HgI8Qf>

New SAPO Licence Arrangements

From the 1st April 2015, the HSE is the licensing authority for issuing SAPO licences, in addition to being responsible for inspection and enforcement. Consequently, the HSE is now the point of contact for all enquires related to the contained use of biological agents (animal pathogens, human pathogens and genetically modified organisms).



New SAPO licences will be issued to existing licence holders as part of a rolling programme during a transitional period from April 2015 to September 2016. The HSE will write to all existing licence holders from April 2015, explaining the transition to the new licence and setting out the time period to permit licence holders to become compliant with the requirements of their new licences. This time period will be at least 6 months and will reflect the scale and complexity of the SAPO activities. All existing licence holders will be moved to a new licence with revised licence conditions by September 2016.

There is also new guidance for licence holders on the containment and control of specified animal pathogens, which is now available. The revised containment guidance is more closely aligned with those for GM and COSHH and for those already working with GMOs or biological agents the revised SAPO licence conditions aim to mirror the existing requirements in these regulations.

Deputy Fire Safety Adviser



Jimmy Burns of the Fire Safety Unit (FSU) has taken up the post of the Deputy Fire Safety Adviser. Jimmy's start date in his new role within the FSU was 1st May 2015.

Jimmy will assist and deputise for Jim Hogg, and his new role as Deputy FSA will maximise his opportunities to accelerate his knowledge and experience of the University, whilst easing the load on Jim. The Deputy FSA will have close contact with Estates on relevant Estates matters, including disabled evacuation.

New powers for SEPA

A new Act, the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, was approved by the Scottish Parliament last year that will significantly alter the powers available to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). SEPA is the enforcing authority for the Environmental Protection Act and its attendant regulations in Scotland, including the Radioactive Substances Act. Provisions in the Regulatory Reform Act give SEPA the power to issue fines of up to £40,000 in relation to environmental offences without having to take offenders to court. SEPA was also given more powers to accept 'enforcement undertakings' in a wider range of circumstances, giving environmental offenders the opportunity to make an offer to correct their behaviour and make amends. A consultation on how the new powers will be exercised was undertaken last autumn.

This appears to mark a change in the way which our laws are enforced, with the enforcing authority to some extent becoming judge, jury and executioner, a development which may be viewed with some concern.

<http://tinyurl.com/pqva486>

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Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research - 10th & 17th June 2015
- Laser Safety - 19th June 2015 www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/timetable
- BTI Biosafety Practitioner Level 1 (Foundation) - Hybrid course 12th – 14th October 2015 www.bti.ed.ac.uk/courses/

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