

Health & Safety Bulletin



Issue 16

May 2016

University Biological Safety Adviser



Dr Phil Walsh has taken up post as the University Biological Safety Adviser as from March 2016. Phil is a Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner. He has professional qualifications and experience in health and safety management, environmental management and biological safety as well as broad

research experience in microbiology, genetics and molecular biology working in universities and government research institutes.

Contact details for Phil: Phil.Walsh@ed.ac.uk or tel. 51 4245

University Fire Safety Adviser



Andy Mackay has taken up the position of University Fire Safety Adviser, as from May 2016. Andy joined us from a similar role at the University of Glasgow. Before joining the HE sector Andy worked for 27 years with Central Scotland

Fire and Rescue Service in both operational command and fire safety management roles.

Andy can be contacted on 51 3051 or email Andy.Mackay@ed.ac.uk

University Health and Safety Policy

The University Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed and the new version officially launched at the recent Health and Safety Conference held in the Informatics Forum on 16th March 2016.

The Health and Safety Policy is issued upon the authority of the University Court. It is published in two documents - the University Health and Safety Policy and a Framework document, also divided into two - Organisation and Arrangements.

This policy replaces the Keynote Guide and 8 Parts of the previous policy and any local copies of the old versions should be destroyed and replaced with the new policy and any web links updated. The old 8 Parts of the Policy plus the Keynote Guide are still available online for reference only.

The majority of the Policy remains unchanged, however, some key changes can be found on our website at:

<http://edin.ac/26eKDG5>



IOSH Managing Safely

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health course Managing Safely was run for the first time at the Centre for Sport and Exercise Peffermill playing fields in March this year. Over the four day duration of the course, the fifteen delegates, and the two course tutors, Joe Brannigan and Lawrence Dickson, all enjoyed the excellent training facilities available at the Laurie Liddell Clubhouse, and plan to use the venue to run the course again at the end of November this year.

Anyone interested in attending this course should contact safety.training@ed.ac.uk.



Health Surveillance reminder

The Occupational Health Unit (OHU) provides a Health Surveillance Programme and participants are identified through risk assessment carried out by local management. Health surveillance does not minimise the identified risk, it checks the effectiveness of any controls & helps identify failures of the safety control system.

The Health Surveillance Programme identifies a date by which the surveillance is due and the individual must attend these appointments either on or before this date at the request of OHU. This should not be 'put off' or missed simply because of awaiting a clinic at your place of work. Staff are reminded that a missed appointment impacts on the ability to provide appointments for others and that regulatory compliance with statute can be put at risk.

Where the individual fails to attend a second offered appointment the individual will be noted as defaulting in the programme. The manager or PI responsible for the individual and the relevant local health and safety contact will be notified that the individual should not have further exposure to the source of risk.



COSHH form and guidance updated

Section E - health monitoring, has been updated to give further guidance on when health surveillance may be required and how to determine if biological monitoring is required.

The accompanying guidance notes have also been updated to reflect this change.

The updated form and guidance can be found on the COSHH guidance page (<http://edin.ac/1Sb4Hmz>) as well as on the Risk Assessments page (<http://edin.ac/1SZsWk4>) on our website.



Biosafety Training Institute (BTI)

The BTI is delighted to announce two exciting updates:

- Approved for Observer status with the [International Federation of Biosafety Associations](#)
- Are now providing the first Institute of Safety in Technology and Research (ISTR) accredited full e-learning Biosafety Practitioner Level 1 course

Follow the BTI on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) for regular updates.



Revision of approved list of biological agents



The HSE Approved List of Biological agents which classifies biological agents hazardous to humans into hazard groups (HG) has been revised.

The revisions to the Approved List include re-classification of Zika virus (reclassified from HG3 to HG2), addition of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (HG3) and a new classification for type 2 poliovirus (HG3). When the type 2 component is withdrawn from the trivalent poliovirus vaccine, attenuated strains of type 2 poliovirus will also be classified as HG3. Types 1 and 3 polio virus will remain as HG2.

Full details on the changes to the revised edition of the Approved List of Biological Agents can be downloaded from the HSE website:

<http://tinyurl.com/lqgtwl>

Contact Details

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Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research - 8th and 15th June 2016 <http://edin.ac/1N4taCS>
- Laser Safety - 17th June 2016 <http://edin.ac/1N4taCS>
- First Aid at Work Annual Refresher Training - 9th June 2016 <http://edin.ac/YPF9zq>
- Fire Stewards & Fire Extinguishers Training - 22nd June 2016 <http://edin.ac/1J0eXft>

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