

Health & Safety Bulletin



Issue 5

September 2012

Travel Health



Do you or any of your staff travel overseas regularly with work? Are you planning an overseas field trip? If so you may want to refer to the Occupational Health Unit's (OHU) Travel Health Service.

OHU offer a wide range of tailor made travel health advice specific to you and the itinerary of the trip. We can provide a range of travel vaccines, antimalarials, basic travel/sterile kits, health advice and information. The cost of any vaccines/kits is charged back to the department authorising the travel via electronic transfers (eITs). For more information visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/occupational-health/staff/travel-health/travel-health-for-staff

Scottish Slimmers Works



Scottish Slimmers weight management classes are run in the University on Tuesdays at lunchtime in Charles Stewart House.

www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/staff/health-wellbeing/lifestyle/diet-nutrition/scottish-slimmers

Health and Safety Conference 2012



This conference is being held on Thursday 20th September, room G.07, Informatics Forum, and is aimed at all staff who participated in the recent review of overseas travel on University business, and School health and safety advisers. It will take the form of a series of short presentations from individuals involved in

the review, including Aon (insurance brokers to the University), International Office, Occupational Health, and Insurance Office. Display stands will also be on show from work areas who can provide advice and guidance on travel related issues.

A buffet lunch will be provided during which individuals will have the opportunity to browse the display stands and meet with colleagues from other areas of the University, including the staff of the Health and Safety Department.

The aim of the event is to allow individuals with a responsibility for University travel or health and safety to meet and interact with colleagues from other areas of the University, and to share experiences and ideas.

Full details with conference timetable and booking instructions are available at:

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/safety-roles/safety-conference-2012

New Departmental Administrator

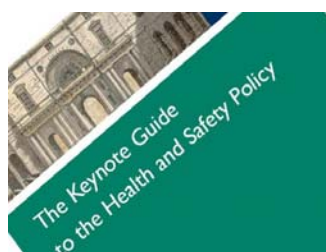
We are very pleased to introduce Caroline McEachen as the Health and Safety Department's Departmental Administrator. She started on Monday 20th August and is working full time in Charles Stewart House. Her telephone number is 50 8189, email Caroline.McEachen@ed.ac.uk Caroline comes to us from Scottish Water and has vast experience as an Administrator.

University H&S Policy review

The University Health and Safety Policy is about to undergo a comprehensive review, with a view to producing a new, more concise Policy document, together with clearly defined supporting guidance. An external expert, with experience of health and safety policies within the Scottish Higher

Education sector, has been engaged to provide both a focus and impetus for this

project, and to provide an external viewpoint. Health and Safety Department staff, as well as colleagues within Schools, will be asked to contribute to the process as and when appropriate to provide input from their own areas of expertise.



HSE reviews of various publications



Approved Codes of Practice Review

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has just undergone a three-month consultation on proposals for the revision, consolidation or withdrawal of its Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs). This began on 3rd July and ended on 14th September.

The full article can be found on the HSE website on the link below including a link to the consultation itself.

www.hse.gov.uk/press/2012/hse-acopsconsultation.htm?eban=govdel-coshh&cr=03-Jul-2012

RIDDOR Review

HSE is also consulting on proposals to simplify and clarify the reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences.

This is as recommended in the October 2010 Government Report, "Common Sense, Common Safety" and by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt in his 2011 report "Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation".

Details of the proposals on how best to give effect to Löfstedt's recommendation can be found by viewing the consultation document on the HSE website. The consultation launched on the 2nd August and is open until 28 October 2012.

www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd243.htm?ebul=consult-riddor&cr=1/2-aug-12

Eye test information



We have simplified the procedure for obtaining an eye test for users of DSE/VDU. There is now no longer a requirement to attend the Occupational Health Unit for an initial vision screening test if the user does not currently wear spectacles/contact lenses. All users who request a test will be referred to the University's Appointed Optometrists, Rodger and Smalridge, in the first instance. Further information is available at:

www.doccs.csq.ed.ac.uk/Safety/health/DSE_eye_tests.pdf

Radiation Protection Adviser accreditation

In order to practise as a Radiation Protection Adviser in the UK, it is necessary to achieve accreditation from a professional assessment body recognised by the Health and Safety Executive. We are pleased to say that our assistant RPA, Mark Green, has recently achieved this accreditation, which involves the submission of a comprehensive portfolio of evidence of radiation protection advice. Mark can now provide advice as appropriate under the Ionising Radiation Regulations.

Health and Safety Executive fees



The Health and Safety Executive is introducing a charging scheme called Fee For Intervention (FFI), which will come into operation in October 2012.

The scheme sets out to recover all of the costs of an inspection / investigation at which a breach of health and safety law is identified by the HSE. No fee will be charged for trivial breaches. For example, if following a visit, the HSE issue a prohibition or enforcement notice, a formal letter, or send an email, then the organisation are liable for all relevant costs associated with their visit. Biological facilities, and licensed asbestos work, will not currently be liable for these fees.

The University Health and Safety Committee will give consideration to where any such fees would be paid from within the University – the School, College, or centrally - at their next meeting.

www.committee.safety.ed.ac.uk/index.cfm

Contact Details

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Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research (10th and 18th October 2012)
- Laser Safety Course (24th October 2012) www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/timetable
- Biosafety Courses (October/November 2012) www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/biosafety/training/timetable
- Fire Steward and Fire Extinguisher theory and practical use (4th October 2012) www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/fire-safety/training/timetable

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