

Facefit testing reminder

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>

Biocidal Product Registration

From the 1st September 2015, suppliers of disinfectants, used as a biocidal product, must be registered on an approved list of suppliers to be able to market and supply them.

The HSE recommends that users need to ensure that their disinfectant suppliers are registered with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to avoid problems in obtaining supplies of disinfectants and to make their disinfectant suppliers aware of the imminent deadline for supplier registration

(<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHSE/bulletins/1116d71>).

In addition, formaldehyde has recently been classified as a Category 1b carcinogen under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations. In light of the new classification, users should review their risk assessment to ascertain whether additional precautions are necessary. Although the short term use (next 3-5 years) of formaldehyde is unlikely to be affected, the long term use of formaldehyde may be subject to further restrictions if and when suitable replacements are identified. It has therefore been recommended that users start to look into the development of alternative gaseous disinfectants for rooms and equipment (information on alternative systems can be found in the above web link).



AIR system functionality reminder

Due to the way the Accident and Incident Reporting (AIR) system is set up, incidents are automatically allocated to the school or work area the injured person is registered to in the EASE system. This can result in some incidents being allocated to schools or work areas when they are not actually related to that school or work area. Common incidents include sporting injuries at Centre for Sport and Exercise or incidents involving students in buildings not managed by their school.

When these incidents are submitted, they must be manually re-allocated to the correct school or work area.

This is done by the Health and Safety Department as soon as possible. However, there will inevitably sometimes be a delay due to other work commitments. If you receive notifications for any such incidents, please only bring them to our attention if more than a week has passed, as this should give us enough time to re-allocate the incident. These types of incidents will not impact on any incident statistics for your school or work area.

A full user guide on the AIR system is available on the wiki at: <http://edin.ac/1G2HQQY>

New appointments in the Occupational Health Unit

Occupational Health Physician



Following the recent retirement of Robert Malcolm, the University has appointed a new Occupational Health Physician (OHP) who will provide OHP services on a sessional basis through the Occupational Health Unit of the Health and Safety Department, in the same way as his predecessor.

Dr Eugene Wacławski, Consultant Occupational Health Physician, has over 20 years' experience of occupational health/medicine having worked as a

Consultant Occupational Physician at the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh, Director of Occupational Health/NHS Consultant in Scotland providing services to the University of Paisley, Erskine Hospital and a recycling company.

In provision of Consultant Physician services for the University of Edinburgh, Eugene will be providing a vast and varied wealth of knowledge in this specialism. Clinic provision is currently for a full day fortnightly and is situated at the Occupational Health Unit. Any contact should be made via the adviser for the allocated area of work.

Administrative Support Co-ordinator

Emma Pryde joined the Occupational Health Unit in June 2015.

Emma brings wide ranging experience from other areas of the University and will coordinate and support the professional staff of the Unit and provide first line initial contact.



Occupational Health Technician



Helen Gilroy of the Occupational Health Unit (OHU) has taken up the post of the Occupational Health Technician since January 2015. Helen will assist the OHU in the organisation and delivery of the Health Surveillance Programme, running health surveillance clinics both at the OHU and at various sites around the University.

Helen joined the Health and Safety Department in January 2007 and became the Health and Safety Administrator, moving to the Occupational Health Unit in 2012.

Occupational Health Adviser

Mallory Fearn joined the OHU in June 2015.

Mallory qualified as a Registered General Nurse in 2009 and initially specialised in Medicine of the Elderly. However in 2012 Mallory followed an interest in the public health nursing speciality and undertook a further BSc in Occupational Health whilst also gaining experience of working in the role of adviser within a busy and diverse industry setting. Mallory became a Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (RSC PHN (OH)) holding a BSc in Community Health in 2014.

In her current role as Occupational Health Adviser for the University she will initially be mainly focussing on overseeing the delivery of the Health Surveillance Programme and running health surveillance clinics both at the OHU and at various sites around the University.



Contact Details

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Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research - 28th October & 4th November 2015
- Laser Safety - 30th October 2015 www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/timetable
- Biosafety Courses - October 2015 www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/biosafety/training/timetable
- First Aid at Work Annual Refresher Training - 6th October & 28th October 2015 <http://edin.ac/YPF9zg>

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