



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

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May 2007

CONTENTS

Membership News	2
Dates for your Diary	3
ISTR Autumn Symposia 2006	
Enabling Disabled Persons in Science and Technology	3
Biosafety – Back to Basics	4
ISTR Skills Development Workshop, Spring 2007	
Are You Complying with DSEAR?	5
Strategic Planning Meeting	5
Current Consultative Documents	
Offences and Penalties for EU F Gas Regulation	6
Amendments to EU Ozone Regulations	7
ISTR's Electronic interface	7
ISTR Award	8

General enquiries about the Institute should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary:

istr-secretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has met at the University of Lincoln in December 2006, HPA Chilton in March 2007 and the University of Birmingham in May 2007. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

Strategic planning

A special EC meeting will have a strategic look both at how ISTR is presently organised and what changes should be made to reflect current day trends. Normal EC meetings did not allow time for this type of reflection.

Future events

November 2007, "Managing the invisible: physical agents" and Biosafety: back to science". 2008 AGM and Summer Symposium, Manchester, 1/2 or 3 July.

Membership fee

An increase in the fee to £20 per annum and a new life membership fee of £10 for retired members were agreed. Differential fees between associates and full members was raised but discussion deferred. It is intended to get annual subscription renewal invoices to members by 30 September.

Joint Ventures

Meeting with LASA and IPSE on Bio-Waste Management at the National Space Museum was very successful and profitable. 83 attendees of which 28 were ISTR members. The partners paid 1/3rd of the cost irrespective of numbers of their attendees.

Sponsorship

Jayne Thomas will take on the sponsors' portfolio.

New members' welcome pack

This will contain Bulletin, Pen, Certificate, Brief-case, Group photograph, Welcome note, ISTR promotion Pen

Membership questionnaire

This will be organised by Mark Cheshire. The aim is to get members involved in decision-making and determining topics etc for symposia.

ISTR Accreditation scheme for biosafety

Final report of working party on level 1 was approved for commendation to AGM

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another issue of the *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is a service to and for members. In this issue you will find news of members, details of forthcoming *ISTR* activities, reports of recent meetings a summary of Executive Committee business. If you have any item that may be of interest to other members please let me know.

From time to time, as a further service to members, advertising material may be enclosed with the *Bulletin* but this does not necessarily mean that the *ISTR* endorses the particular products.

The *ISTR* is not responsible for individual views expressed in the *Bulletin*.

The *Bulletin* is edited by: Dr FJ Young, Health and Safety Unit, The University of Birmingham EMail f.j.young@bham.ac.uk

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Institute has admitted the following into membership

Further details may be found in the updated, on-line version of *ISTR Members' Handbook* in the members' only section of the *ISTR* website.

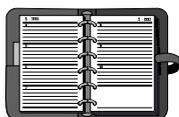
Full Members:

Mr S Caiden, Mrs SA Campbell, Ms SM Chalder, Mrs Ann Diment, Ms HC Forde, Dr Iain MacKirdy, Mr Lindsay Murray, Ms Frances Quigley, Dr Patrick Seechurn, Ms Linda Simpson, Dr Melanie Taylor and Mrs Janet Wilson

Associate Members:

Miss SE Burdall, Dr David Knight, Mr John Nelson, Mr RA Norris, Mrs DA Ruston, Mr S Shemilt and Dr Joan Simon

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary: istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2007 Autumn Symposium

A one day meeting entitled "Management of the invisible - physical agents" will be held on 7 November 2007 at the Chancellors Conference Centre, University of Manchester.

2007 Biosafety Sub-Group Symposium

This will be held on the day following (8 November) the ISTR Autumn Symposium and at the same venue. The theme will be "Biosafety - back to science"

For more information contact the Events Secretary: istr-eventssecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk
or go to <http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/events.htm>

ISTR Autumn Symposia, November 2006

The ISTR 2006 Autumn Symposia were held at the National Motorcycle Museum on 8 and 9 November. 24 delegates attended the general symposium and the next day 49 attended an ISTR Biosafety Sub-Group symposium. *Copies of the presentations may be downloaded from the members' section of the ISTR website.*

ENABLING DISABLED PERSONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This account of the symposium was kindly provided by David Heath

What does the legislation require ?

Claire Bell, University of Lincoln

Claire Bell outlined the legislation and why we have the DDA – 1 in 10 of the population is disabled in some way. She defined disability and discrimination and what can be considered 'reasonable' adjustments. The disabled are not a race apart – they are ourselves.

Designing facilities which disabled persons can safely use

Derek Hampshire, AED Practice

Derek Hampshire, a designer, gave a detailed presentation of the fine detail needed when designing new facilities, to cope with the full range of disabilities,

from mobility to sight, sound, speech and strength. As well as access, considerations must include lighting, signage, toilets, emergencies.

Adapting the existing - what reasonably can be done

Henry Knight, Parker Knight Associates

Henry Knight talked about what can reasonably be done to meet the needs of the disabled, starting with suitable access. Getting it right the first time can save a lot of money converting later. He gave numerous examples where a little forethought could have made access acceptable from the start.

Individual risk assessment

Barbara Port, Warwickshire College

In the final session of the morning, Barbara Port talked about individual risk assessment for disabled

students at Warwickshire College. The process starts at application for a student, followed by interview, when needs can be assessed, including academic and personal requirements. To carry out a risk assessment it is essential to know the demands set by

a course, including visits and exams. In addition the medical needs of a student must be assessed together with emergency evacuation (a PEP will be needed). The assessment can also be applied equally to staff as to students.

WORKSHOPS

The two workshops were repeated to allow delegates to attend both.

A checklist for disabled persons on field studies

Alison Johnson, University of Cambridge

Delegates were engaged in formulating a checklist for disabled persons on a field study.

Adapting a lab for a disabled person

David Heath, Syngenta

The second workshop looked at adapting an existing

workplace for an employee disabled as a result of an accident. The process involved early discussion with the individual, their manager, occupational Health and HR to determine their wish to continue work, the type of work and restrictions with more hazardous duties. Then on return to work, there followed a practical session with the individual to assess the suitability of changes made in anticipation of their return and further modifications which the individual pointed out.



Biosafety Symposium BACK TO BASICS



This account of the symposium organised by the southern section of the ISTR Biosafety Sub-Group was kindly provided by David Heath.

Risk assessments – are we doing them?

Drs Paul Jackett and Arthur Mitchell, MRC

This introductory presentation on Risk Assessments, including when and how to do them covered generic, COSHH and GM risk assessments, the level of risk and the control measures.

Disinfectants – are we using them wisely?

Dr David Veale, University of Warwick

David Veale gave a very comprehensive talk on disinfectants - what they are, the different types, their efficacy against different organisms, their drawbacks, validation methods and new disinfectants. The clear message is there is no 'universal' disinfectant and they must be used as appropriate for the organism.

The Management of Biosafety – Biosafety / GMO / Ethics Committees

Dr Anton De Paiva, Imperial College

Dr de Paiva described the management of biosafety, in relation to Imperial. With 3 sites in London they have 'user' safety management committees. There isn't a 'Biosafety' committee as such – the BSO reviews new and significant changes to CL2 and above. In addition there is a medical ethics committee within the faculty of medicine checking on for example compliance with the Human Tissue Act and GM committees which review and approve new work under the GMO (contained use) regs. The GMSCs do not write the risk assessments, only review and approve. For multiple site it is best to have multiple

GMSCs with a common link (secretariat). The GMSCs are made up of a Chair, secretary, Institutional BSO, reps from management, reps from other affected institutes, user scientists who can offer specialist expertise in the organisms. For the GMSC to run properly, all the data, including risk assessments should be available before or at the meeting and approval or rejection of a proposal for work should be clear to all concerned.

Basics of fumigation – are you doing it right?

Steve Copping, HSE

Steve Copping gave a presentation on the comparison of Hydrogen Peroxide with Formalin to fumigate facilities. He explained the pros and cons of each, in particular the problems with formalin which is almost certainly a human carcinogen. Along with reclassification there is a need to re-register products on the market in the EU before May 2000 and there is the possibility that some products containing formaldehyde may not be registered, resulting in their removal from the market. Other fumigants mentioned are chlorine dioxide, a highly reactive gas still not fully developed for fumigation of biological containment facilities and ozone, also highly reactive but again not fully developed in laboratories. A draft of new guidance has been produced 'Fumigation operations in microbiological containment laboratories: guidance on the available technologies and their application' is available on the HSE website.

Transporting hazardous organisms

Nigel Reader, Department for Transport

Nigel Reader explained that the regulations are different for different modes of transport but are based on UN principles of classification. Infectious

substances come under *Division 6*. Within this, category A are life threatening, category B the others (no life threatening). Each has its own packaging : Cat = P620 and Cat B=P650. Within the categories there are weight and volume limits for different transport modes and the sender is advised to seek the advice of their DGSA to ensure compliance.

The Human Tissue Act 2004 - its relation to research

Sarah Dickson, MRC

Sarah Dickson explained it is permissible to obtain, store and use relevant material for scheduled purposes as long as appropriate consent has been obtained. Consent must be a positive act and tissue may be taken from living and deceased persons. Exemptions are material prior to September 2006 and imported material. Tissue from living persons can be taken for research as long as it is anonymised. A licence costing £6K is required in the UK, except Scotland. MRC have set standards for consent, collection, training, transport, storage and disposal of tissue.

Infectious organisms – what's new and coping strategies

Dr Graham Lloyd, HPA

In the final session, Graham Lloyd, a consultant clinical scientist, talked about current and new infectious organisms on the world stage and coping strategies. Some new organisms, such as west Nile virus, have spread rapidly across the USA, and others are likely to spread just as fast with global travel. Coming soon may be Hendra and Nipah virus, Ross river virus and Chikungunya. Turning to bioterrorism there are a number of organisations who may want to use infectious organisms but there are problems of delivery to contaminate large groups of people. What are needed are strategies to control access and coping strategies should infectious organisms escape or be used deliberately. Some of the controls are bureaucratic, some physical security to maintain containment both of the infectious agents themselves but also of infected animals used in testing. The coping strategies for infectious patients is surprisingly different in the UK and elsewhere. Here we isolate the patient, on the continent they isolate the carers in air-fed suits.

ISTR Skills Development Workshop, Spring 2007



ARE YOU COMPLYING WITH DSEAR?



24 delegates attended the workshop in March led by Tony Ennis and Alan Tyldesley of Haztech Consultants, at the National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull. The presentations covered the need to identify those areas where an explosive or flammable atmosphere may exist, leading to an area classification to determine the extent of the danger area. For most small scale laboratories with less than 50 litre vessels it is not practical to area classify as there are too many ignition sources but for pilot plant

this is recommended. It is then possible to carry out a risk assessment under DSEAR to decide the actual hazards and control measures to reduce the risk of a fire or explosion. Couple with a fire risk assessment under the Regulatory Reform (fire safety) Order, which deals with personal safety of staff such as means of escape, fire detection and raising the alarm, the workshop covered all aspects of laboratory and flammable storage fire safety.

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

The meeting took place at the University of Lincoln in December 2007. The aim was to have a strategic look both at how ISTR is presently organised and what changes should be made to reflect current day trends. There was an appreciation that normal EC meetings did not allow time for this type of reflection.

Three major questions were considered:

1. Is there a problem that needs fixing?
2. Is the time right to reflect on our position?
3. Is a new direction required or is it more of the same or better?

In summary, the following decisions were reached.

ISTR events

- Delegate badges with ISTR logo and Committee members badges of a distinctive colour.
- Promotional pens etc available at all events.
- AGM and Symposium to remain within University Campuses for the foreseeable future.
- November meeting venue needs to be changed – requirement is a central location with good

Road/Rail/Air/Public transport such as Manchester/Birmingham.

- Early bird bookings to encourage both early bookings and to ensure that numbers are sufficient to run a venture.
- Select AGM Symposium venues up to 3 years ahead.
- Subjects are usually topical and feedback suggest that this is what members wish.
- Avoid clashes with other organisations events.
- Appoint an Events Secretary shadow for each event to ensure continuity in meeting organisation.
- Write a concise remit for each speaker.

Membership

- Promotional stand reflecting ISTR symposia and events etc. at all meetings.
- Identify and target potential new members at meetings.
- Offer direct debit facilities to present members.

Joint ventures

A search for future partners should begin, especially for topics of minority interest where a sole ISTR venture would not be financially viable.

Promotional ventures

- Target publicity in the local area where the meeting is being held e.g. through local University bulletins etc
- An EC member should have the portfolio for attracting sponsors.

Finances/Fees

Discussion on balance between income from Subscriptions and Symposium Fees took place. No strategic decision was taken although it was noted that this would be discussed at the EC on the following day.

Executive Committee

No change in composition or time of service.

CURRENT CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS

The Executive Committee organises formal responses from the ISTR to Consultative Documents (CD's) put out by the Health and Safety Commission, etc. Each such response is intended to be based on the views of the membership co-ordinated by identified individuals. These co-ordinators need to have expertise in a particular area of interest to the *Institute* because the timescales for responses to CD's is sometimes very short and there may be little opportunity for further consultation with the membership.

If you are willing to act in this capacity of "CD" co-ordinator for ISTR please contact Arthur Mitchell, Hon. Sec., and indicate the topic area you have the expertise to cover.

Volunteers are needed NOW for the following.

The documents may be downloaded from the web addresses provided.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

PROPOSALS FOR OFFENCES AND PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT IN RELATION TO EC REGULATION 842/2006 ON CERTAIN FLUORINATED GREENHOUSE GASES

Key obligations in the Regulation will apply in the EU from 4 July 2007. Member states are required to put in place offences and penalties for failure to comply with the Regulation.

The principal objective of the EC Regulation is to contain, prevent and thereby reduce emissions of F gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol. The main provisions in the Regulation deal with containment through responsible handling during use, recycling and end-of-life recovery; reporting requirements and certain application specific bans on use and placing on the market.

The consultation includes the proposed GB offences and penalties Regulations which sets out offences for each of the key obligations in the EC Regulation and penalties for failure to comply and a draft partial Regulatory Impact Assessment. The proposed Regulations also provide proposed powers for enforcing bodies as well as for the Regulations to apply to offshore oil and gas installations.

Closing date for comments 14 August 2007
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/f-gas/index.htm>]

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (CONTROLS ON OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES) REGULATIONS 2002 (SI 2002 NO 528) AND THE OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES (QUALIFICATIONS) REGULATIONS 2006 (SI 2006 NO 1510)

The ozone layer protects all living things from harmful radiation from the sun. The Montreal Protocol is an international agreement that has led to successive cuts in production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances. EC ozone legislation gives effect to these requirements and in some ways goes beyond those international requirements. SI 2002 No 528 created offences and penalties for failure to comply with the EC legislation and provided enforcement powers. The proposed amending Regulations are intended to:

- Set requirements for persons intending to fumigate with methyl bromide for quarantine or pre-shipment purposes to obtain prior authorisation from port health authorities and local authorities;
- amend the powers currently provided for enforcement of the obligations in EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer so as to provide additional enforcement powers for the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and local authorities and to remove references to any functions to be exercised by the Health and Safety Executive;

- apply the relevant provisions of the amended SI 2002/528 to offshore oil and gas installations;
- Set new offences and penalties in relation to failure to supply information/records about halon exports and production/use of bromochloromethane in breach of EU/international bans;
- provide powers for the Secretary of State to require persons to dispose of improper exports of a controlled substance, a product or equipment and for it to be an offence for failure to do so.

These Regulations will be applicable to England, Scotland, and Wales (including offshore oil and gas installations which fall within the remit of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)) and in relation to importation, in Northern Ireland. Separate Regulations will be issued by the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland.

The proposed amendment to the Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) 2006 makes a minor addition in relation to fire protection qualifications.

Closing date for comments 14 August 2007

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ozone/index.htm>]

ISTR'S ELECTRONIC INTERFACE



HASNET-ISTR Email Discussion List



This is a closed email discussion list. That is, only ISTR members are given access to it. Members need do nothing; members are automatically added to the list by the Membership Secretary using the email address supplied by the member. Queries about HASNET-ISTR should be addressed to the Membership Secretary (see page 2 for contact

details).

The Executive Committee would like to see members make a lot more use of HASNET-ISTR



Bulletin

Whilst this copy of the ISTR Bulletin has been posted to you, an electronic version in Adobe Acrobat pdf format can be downloaded from the member's only section of the ISTR web site:

<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>

ISTR on the World Wide Web: <http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/>



ISTR Award

for Outstanding Contribution to Safety in Technology and Research

This award is given in recognition of the effort and success of a named member who has, in the view of the Executive Committee, made a significant contribution to safety in the field of technology, science or research through a publication, scheme, device, campaign, training material or other.

The Award

The award will comprise of a plaque and a small monetary award agreed by the executive from the Institute funds.

The award will be presented to any or all of the nominations that the executive considers meet the criteria at the AGM following nomination. An individual member or a group of the membership can make nominations. If no nominations are forthcoming for any particular year, or if the committee feels that no nomination has met the criteria then no award will be made that year.

Criteria

- The recipient must be a current member (any grade) of ISTR
- The results or end product are disseminated to other members or beyond
- It is an example of best practice or addresses a new problem or addresses a need
- It must be the nominees' own work or in a declared collaboration

The process

Nominations may be received by the executive at any time and will be considered at a meeting prior to the AGM. The nomination must be in writing detailing: the initiator, contribution description, and awardee(s). Where possible the contribution itself should be available to the Committee.

Nominations may come from other members, groups of members or the individual themselves. Nominees will be informed by the committee of their nomination and allowed to submit additional information.

Weighting/Merit will be given to nominations that have:

- Broad application (e.g. multidiscipline, applicable in a range of organisations, etc.)
- Availability to other members (e.g. is not restricted to the originating organisation, is not prohibitively expensive, etc.)
- Ease of Use (e.g. does not require prolonged or very specialist training before use)
- An effect (e.g. item, procedure, etc.) that truly addresses an issue (e.g. not just a review of literature)
- Personal effort required to produce said contribution (e.g. not a commercially available solution that has been subject to minor 'tweaks')
- Novel and innovative approaches or solutions

Presentation of the ISTR Award takes place at the AGM. Nominations can be made at any time but have to be received by mid-April at the latest for consideration by the Executive Committee before the next AGM. The nomination form can be downloaded from the Members' section of the ISTR website at [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm#award>].