



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

NUMBER 46
May 2008

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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 2007 and Syngenta, Bracknell in March 2008. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

ISTR Web site

The design and content of the ISTR website has been under review.

EU Funding

Funding still being sought - CEN standards require several partners - it was agreed to continue searching for partners.

Joint Ventures

Discussions are taking place with the Universities' Chemical Safety Forum (UCSF) to seek ways of collaborating on matters of mutual interest. The UCSF is a loose grouping of university health and safety professionals and members of university chemistry departments.

Financial Benefits for ISTR members

A deal is being pursued with Vision Express

Skills Development Workshop Spring 2009

Making Safety video clips, led by a film photographer. It is hoped the workshop venue will include a laboratory, fume cupboard, etc. to allow the production of clips from scratch.

Biosafety Accreditation Scheme

The work of the two groups, level 1 and level 2, in progressing the scheme continues.

Poster for EBSA

It was agreed to fund an ISTR poster for the European Biological Safety Association.

EC Badges

In future, the Executive Committee and ISTR Officers attending ISTR events will wear special badges to identify them to members.

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.

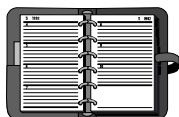
Full Members:

Mr SG Bowdon, RG Chalkely, Dr RRD Croy, Mr MA Gardiner, Dr PJ Goddard, Mr IR Hackford, Mr AI Knight, Mrs S Leech, Mr RC Parsons, Dr CJ Perrons, Mr MT Rayer, Miss CJ Stace and Mr D Tallon.

Associate Members:

Dr JA Green and Ms C Maltby

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2008 AGM and Summer Symposium

This year's venue is Chancellors Conference Centre, University of Manchester on the 1 and 2 July. The day of the AGM, 1 July, has been organised differently from previous years. The AGM will be preceded by a visit to Jodrell Bank, leaving Chancellors at 2.00pm and returning from Jodrell Bank at 4.30pm. The AGM in Chancellors is at the later time of 6.00pm. Dinner follows at 8.00pm.

The theme for the Summer Symposium on the following day, 2 July, is "Difficult situations". A number of speakers will be addressing how to avoid a crisis turning into a catastrophe. The issues to be covered include the management of disease outbreaks within an organisation and neighbouring communities, understanding what emergency services

will and will not do when a serious event occurs, how employee requirements and those of others (visitors, contractors etc.) can be met during a serious event, a review of good and bad handling of serious events and repercussions. There will also be workshops in the afternoon.

2008 Autumn Symposium

The topic for the symposium in November will be "Chemical Management Now".

2009 AGM and Summer Symposium

These will be hosted by the University of Nottingham on the 1 and 2 July 2009. The theme will be "Green but Safe".

For more information contact the Events Secretary: istr-eventssecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk

ISTR Autumn Symposia, November 2007

The ISTR 2007 Autumn Symposia were held at the Chancellors Conference Centre, Manchester on 7 and 8 November. 35 delegates attended the Physical Agents symposium and the next day 40 attended an ISTR Biosafety Sub-Group meeting. *Copies of the presentations may be downloaded from the members' section of the ISTR website.*

PHYSICAL AGENTS

This account of the symposium was kindly provided by David Heath

Management of laser safety in research

Dr Marc Schmidt, University of Manchester

Marc Schmidt, the laser safety officer from Manchester University, described the management of lasers at the University, with some 800 users and 350 lasers. The major hurdle is culture, getting academics to accept that a management system is necessary to prevent accidents. This is achieved by education and training of principal investigators, research users and those who work close-by. Users have to pass an

exam, those working in the vicinity are made aware of the hazards and controls in place. In addition, Marc gives advice on purchasing lasers and carries out audits on their use. In spite of this there has been one accident, when a researcher received an eye strike, when he decided to work alone when the University was closed, and modified the enclosure to get the beam to enter a high voltage cage.

Non-laser optical radiation update

Andy Pearson, Health Protection Agency

Andy Pearson, talked about optical radiation and reminded us that there are exposure limits for UV and

IR radiation. In order to decide if a person is exposed above the limits, it is necessary to know the spectrum of the radiation and then decide which of 15 exposure limits apply. It is also necessary to factor in the geometry of the source and the distance and exposure time of the subject. Measurement of irradiation can be expensive and meters suffer from deficiencies but while a risk assessment is required under the Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations, Reg 4 of AORD requires measurement only where necessary. So common sense can prevail, for those situations where exposure can be controlled by engineering or management processes, or the source does not emit radiation which could exceed the exposure limit, such as office lighting.

Vibration – Measuring hand/arm and wholebody vibration

Simon Bull, Castlegroup

Simon Bull gave a talk on vibration, with examples of VWF and a demonstration of measurement of the acceleration forces present when using hand tools. With acceleration forces above the exposure limit the maximum exposure time reduces dramatically, so the best way to limit exposure is by choosing the correct tool, reducing the grip needed, using well designed and maintained hand held equipment and taking regular breaks to reduce exposure time. There is some excellent guidance to accompany the regulations.

For whole body vibration (WBV) the situation is less clear, with the person subjected to the vibration transmitted through the seat and the extent of vibration usually determined by the road surface over which the vehicle is travelling. Smoothing the surface is often the best technique for reducing WBV.

Case studies of solutions to noise problems

Peter Wilson, Industrial Noise & Vibration

After lunch Peter Wilson, from the Industrial Noise and Vibration Centre, presented work they had done to reduce noise by engineering means, where possible by reducing noise at source rather than by using enclosures. This involved buying quieter machines and better design of damping systems such as composite materials and adding silencers to equipment. PPE should not be considered unless all alternatives have been eliminated, as it tends to over protect, leaving the wearer in isolation and not wearing for just a short time can lead to over exposure in an 8 hour day.

EU directive on EMF's

Steve Pritchard, HPA

Steve Pritchard explained the EU directive on EMF's, implementation having been delayed until 2012, although HSE are tasked with producing regulations and we shouldn't wait until 2012. Low frequency EMF's come from a variety of sources, such as induction furnaces and power cables carrying large currents. A risk assessment should be carried out by a competent person, with measurement of field strength where necessary, to ensure worker exposure is below the ELV. Workers must not be exposed to EMF's above the exposure limit value (ELV) and above the lower Action value (AV) must be protected by engineering controls, restricted access and lastly by PPE. Health surveillance may be necessary for at risk workers and they should undergo instruction and training to know how to minimise exposure.

High frequency EMF's are typically found in manufacturing (heat sealing and welding by induction) and in the telecommunications industry. For welding machines guarding and limited exposure times provide protection to below the AV and for telecommunications the principal control is exclusion zones around TV transmitters and radar dishes. It is normal to control exposure by turning off the source before entering the exclusion zone.

Electromagnetic fields – are they a problem ?

Dr Les Coulton, University of Sheffield

The final speaker, Dr Les Coulton, presented the evidence regarding possible health effects from electromagnetic radiation, from 50 Hz up to 40 GHz. This includes overhead power lines (50 Hz) to mobile phones (800 KHz – 2.1 GHz) to WiFi (2.4-5.7 GHz) through to radar (1-40GHz). It is not just the frequency but also the power which needs to be considered, with mobile phone masts operating at a few tens of watts, through to TV transmitters operating at 500 KW. As the power decays with the square of the distance, the energy received by a member of the public is extremely small. Although there have been reports of perceived effects from base stations, none of the studies have been replicated in repeat experiments. There is no biological reason why exposure to very small EMF's could cause an effect, the field strengths being much lower than the natural background from the mass of the earth.

The problem for scientists is that it is impossible to prove a zero effect (totally safe) from such exposures.

ISTR Skills Development Workshop, Spring 2008

ADVANCED INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING

14 Members attended the skills workshop on 12 March 2008 at the University of Birmingham Conference Centre. The presenter, Keith Hancill, a trainer with bond Solon Legal consultancy, was

formerly a detective and had interviewed many notorious criminals. Keith passed on tips of persuasion to get to the truth, although our interviewees are usually of a more co-operative

nature! The delegates learned about the importance of preparation, the different interview styles and the different types of question. New to some was the technique of recall or cognitive interview, getting witnesses to go backwards and relive the event,

similar to trying to remember where you put your keys.

It was a very packed day with a brief chance to practice the skills in the afternoon but with a very informative manual explaining the techniques.

CHEMICALS LABELLING – ALL CHANGE

Present System

The chemicals labelling that we use in the UK (CHIP) is the implementation of an EU System under the Dangerous Substances Directive. The EU system and classifications of individual chemicals are updated from time to time and these updates are implemented in the UK by amendments to the CHIP regulations.

The updates are called ATPs (Adaptations to Technical Progress). The timescale for implementation of the 30th ATP is 1 June 2009. The same implementation date is also planned for the proposed 31st ATP. The reason for the dual implementation date is the anticipation that by that time the EU Regulation to adopt the UN's Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) will have been agreed. GHS will be implemented directly by EU regulation whereas the current system requires local legislation (CHIP in the UK). The practical consequence is that the UK and other Member States will not need to implement the 30th and 31st ATPs into national legislation (in our case CHIP).

New UN System

The aim of the United Nations Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is: one chemical, one label - worldwide.



All over the world there are different laws on how to identify the hazardous properties of chemicals (called 'classification') and how information about these hazards is then passed to users (through labels, and safety data sheets for workers).

This can be confusing because the same chemical can have different hazard descriptions in different countries. For example, a chemical could be labelled as 'toxic' in one country, but not in another.

The UN brought together experts from different countries to create the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The aim of the GHS is to have, worldwide, the same:

- criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health, environmental and physical hazards; and
- hazard communication requirements for labelling and safety data sheets.

The UN GHS is not a formal treaty, but instead is a non-legally binding international agreement.

Therefore countries (or trading blocks) must create local or national legislation to implement the GHS.

The new EU Regulation to implement the GHS will convert current and pending updates to EU classifications to GHS classifications.

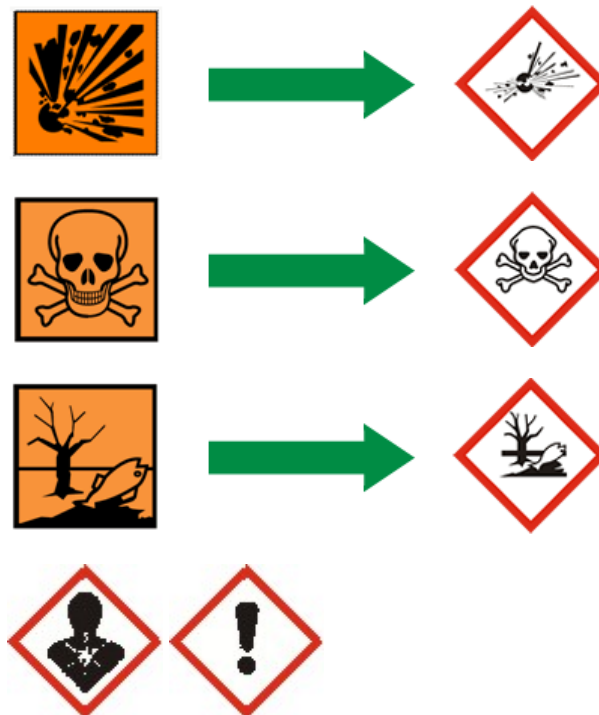
Implications of GHS

Familiar hazard criteria and symbols will change, new criteria and symbols will be added:

For example, the diagram below demonstrates there are differences between the definitions for 'acute toxicity – oral' under the existing system compared to the new GHS criteria.

	Acute Toxicity - Oral							
EU	T+ R28	T R25	Xn R22					
LD ₅₀	≤5	5-25	25-50	50-200	200-300	300-2000	2000-5000	
GHS	Cat 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4	Category 5

Our familiar pictograms will be to a different design and in a different format and there will be additional symbols.



The current risk and safety phrases will be replaced by hazard and precautionary statements for labels.

Examples of new hazard statements include:
H201 - Explosive; Mass explosion hazard

H205 - May mass explode in fire
H223 - flammable aerosol
H300 - Fatal if swallowed
H317 - May cause an allergic skin reaction.

This brief summary is based on information taken from the HSE website. Full details of the current ATPs and further details of GHS can be found at [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/chip/index.htm>]

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.

Health and Safety Commission

CD217 - PROPOSALS FOR NEW AMENDING REGULATIONS ABOUT THE CLASSIFICATION, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS: CHIP 3.2

The proposed amendments are to the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply Regulations 2002 (CHIP). The amendments are necessary because Great Britain must implement into national legislation EC Directive 2006/8/EC, commonly known as the 2nd Adaptation to Technical Progress of the Dangerous Preparations Directive (the 2nd ATP).

The 2nd ATP makes changes to three of the annexes in the Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD) which are technical in nature and have been agreed by experts from Member States after full consultation, discussion and scientific inquiry. The changes do not affect the main legal duties but do adjust:

- the rules and procedures for classifying and labelling a chemical preparation containing carcinogens, mutagens or substances toxic for reproduction;
- the generic concentration limits to be used for the evaluation of the hazards for the aquatic environment; and
- the classification and labelling requirements for preparations containing ozone depleting substances;

As a result of some of the changes, suppliers may

need to take account of any large quantities of newly re-classified chemicals they have stored on site at any one time to ensure that they comply with the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended).

The proposed amendments also clarify and make more consistent the specified warning phrases on labels for certain preparations.

In addition to the changes to CHIP needed as a result of the 2nd ATP, this consultative document outlines several minor editorial changes to clarify existing requirements and correct errors which do not alter the existing requirements. HSE is also keen to hear your views on whether, in future, we continue to update and republish paper copies of the HSE's Approved Supply List (ASL) given that the EC now has easily searchable and up-to-date electronic databases available on the Internet. (The ASL lists all the harmonised classifications and labelling requirements agreed at EU level).

Closing date for comments 4 July 2008
[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd217.htm>]

Health and Safety Commission

SUNBEDS

HSE has guidance on controlling the health risks associated with working with UV tanning equipment, for example sunlamps, sunbeds and tanning booths.

Exposure to UV radiation can lead to a number of short- and long-term ill health effects, and the guidance gives advice on how to minimise the risks.

The guidance is now ten years old and HSE is currently consulting on a revised version.

Closing date for comments 17 July 2008
[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/sunbeds.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

A DRAFT STRATEGY ON PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF HONEY BEES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

This consultation aims to engage with all those with an interest in the sustainability of honey bees. The draft strategy is the result of a series of informal discussions and consultations with beekeeping associations and other stakeholders. Defra now want to hear from a wider range of people, particularly

individual beekeepers to make sure that the strategy represents accurately their priorities.

Closing date for comments 29 August 2008
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/bee-health/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

PROPOSED TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES REGULATIONS 2008

In accordance with legislative obligations under section 14a of the Animal Health Act 1981 Defra is inviting comments on the proposed Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations 2008.

would be revoked. They include changes that have been made in response to several developments including reviews of procedure, changes to European legislation, and certain technical changes.

The proposed new Regulations would update and replace the existing Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (No.2) Regulations 2006, which

Closing date for comments 26 June 2008
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tseregs-2008/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DRAFT SOIL STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND

The purpose of the document is to provide a sound framework for policy making and delivery with the aim of ensuring the sustainable management of England's soils.

sustainable soil management and then sets out in broad terms what it is that Defra hopes to achieve and some initial steps it intends to undertake in the next few years.

The draft Strategy sets out the pressures on our soils and the priority work areas that have been identified on the basis of these pressures. It explains current policy measures which are in place to achieve

Closing date for comments 23 June 2008
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/soilstrategy/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DRAFT MARINE BILL

The Draft Marine Bill was published on 3 April 2008. Defra is seeking views on the proposals set out in the draft Bill and input to the supporting Impact Assessment.

- planning in the marine area;
- licensing activities in the marine area;
- marine nature conservation;
- managing marine fisheries;
- reform of inland and migratory fisheries;
- modernisation and streamlining of enforcement powers;

The key issues covered are:

- the creation of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO);

- administrative penalties scheme for domestic fisheries offences; and
- access to coastal land.

Closing date for comments 26 June 2008
 [http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marinebill/index.htm]

ISTR'S ELECTRONIC INTERFACE



HASNET-ISTR Email Discussion List



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



Bulletin

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).

Whilst this copy of the ISTR Bulletin has been posted to you, an electronic version in Adobe Acrobat pdf format and in colour can be downloaded from the member's only section of the ISTR web site: <http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>

ISTR MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The survey was conducted via the web by the ISTR Membership Secretary, using SurveyMonkey software. 237 members were notified by email or by post and by the end of the survey period (December 2007 - January 2008) 100 members had submitted web-based responses, a response rate of 42.2%. The following is a very brief summary, Members can access the full report at [http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/documents/ISTR_Membership_Survey_Report_2008.pdf]

SECTION 2 (Attendance at Events)

26.8% of the respondents have not attended any event.

SECTION 3 (Events)

The timing of all the events was generally satisfactory with the inevitable comments on too early/late. There was an excellent selection of possible topics offered for consideration. New technologies were of particular interest with 49% of the respondents considering them to be very important.

The autumn meetings were particularly praised for their content and value for money.

SECTION 4 (ISTR Website)

The website was lightly used and certainly not used regularly as a resource. 90% were happy with the general content.

SECTION 5 (ISTR Newsletter)

96% of respondents read ISTR Bulletin and 90% were happy with its content.

SECTION 6 (Perception of the Executive Committee and Management)

86% of respondents felt that the EC were managing the affairs of ISTR effectively.

SECTION 7 (ISTR Mailing lists)

Nearly all of the membership knew of the existence of the Hasnet-ISTR mailing list, a smaller number were aware of the Hasnet-BIO list. 84% of the respondents who used Hasnet-ISTR did so on a reasonably regular basis. Of those using Hasnet-BIO, 56% used the list regularly.

SECTION 8 (General Comments)

"ISTR does offer good info to its members - the bulletin is online which is good and 'advertises' all future meetings. I certainly would consider attending ISTR events again."

"I worry that ISTR is becoming to Bio orientated and will start to lose members. Its strength is the knowledge and experience base in the membership. ISTR Exec needs to ensure that the symposia are relevant and at the 'cutting edge'".

"Thanks and keep up the good work. The workshops/symposia are excellent usually with high calibre presentations."

"I think ISTR is a valuable communication channel and provides excellent information to members and a wealth of expertise."

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