



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

**NUMBER 41
November 2005**

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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

2005 Annual General Meeting

Edinburgh was the place to be, the first week of July, and it was a little busier than usual. There was the big occasion of the ISTR AGM and Summer Symposium, lots of historic and other ancient landmarks being enjoyed by the usual throngs of tourists - oh, and some world leaders and a few extra police for the G8 summit!

New Chair



New Fellow

Heather Sheeley, who assumed the Chair of the Institute from this AGM, congratulates Dr Drew Rankine on his election to Fellow of the Institute. Drew was one of three new Fellows, elected in recognition of their outstanding contributions to health and safety in technology and research. Drew, Director of Safety at the University of Glasgow, was an ISTR Executive Committee member in the 1990s. David Watson, Director of University Health and Safety Services, University of Hull until his recent retirement, is a former Chairman of the Institute. The third new fellow, Dr David Veale, University Safety Officer, University of Warwick, has also actively supported the Institute. All three new fellows have hosted ISTR AGM/Summer Symposia and were founder members of the IUSO, predecessor to ISTR.

Another hardworking supporter of the Institute as Treasurer and in the northern biosafety sub-group, Dr Stuart Thompson, did not stand for re-election this time. He is succeeded as Honorary Treasurer by Rob Wood whose term as Chair of the Institute ended at this AGM. The Institute welcomes two new committee members: Mrs Jayne Thomas, Head of Health and Safety, MRC Harwell, just returned from an MRC post in the Gambia and Vincent Theobald, Safety Officer at the University of Newcastle and former HSE Inspector in Agriculture and Construction.

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 2002* in the members' only section of the *ISTR* website.

Full Members:

Mr CO Clay, Mr KG Horne and Mr AP Kelly

Associate Members:

Mrs AM Diment, Mr B Mcmanus and Mrs D Spedding

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



ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005/2006

HS (**Heather**) **Sheeley**, (*Chair*)
Manager of Safety,
Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response,
Health Protection Agency, Porton Down

Mr RM (**Rob**) **Wood**, (*Treasurer*),
Health and Safety Manager
University of Lincoln

Mr D (**David**) **Heath**, (*Events Secretary*)
Safety Adviser,
Syngenta,
Jealott's Hill International Research Centre.

Dr AR (**Arthur**) **Mitchell**, (*Secretary*)
MRC Regional Health and Safety Co-ordinator,
University Medical School, Edinburgh

Mrs J (Jayne) Thomas,
Head of Health and Safety,
MRC Harwell

Dr FJ (Fred) Young, (*Bulletin Editor*)(Co-opted)
Health and Safety Adviser,
The University of Birmingham

Mr V (Vincent) Theobald (*Membership Secretary*),
Head of Safety,
University of Newcastle



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Skills Development Workshop Winter 2006

A workshop on "Root Cause Analysis" - is being planned for early March 2006.

2006 AGM and Symposium

The 2006 AGM and symposium will be hosted by Dublin City University. The AGM will take place on 21 June. The theme of the symposium on the 22 June will be "Risk Management and the Safety Professional."

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

ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005



The Institute's Annual General Meeting took place in St Leonard's Hall at the University of Edinburgh on 5 July 2005 and followed the Agenda sent to all members in advance of the meeting.



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

First let me start off this year's report with an apology for being unable to attend this year's AGM. Family business has meant that I cannot attend. I wish you all a successful AGM and symposium.

1. Executive Committee Meetings

Including the Executive Committee meeting held before last year's AGM the Executive Committee (EC) has met five times. These meetings were in Southampton on 6 July, in Manchester on 23 September, in Birmingham on 7 December, and again in Birmingham on 24 March and 13 May. Birmingham is used often because of its geographically central position. At these meetings decisions are taken on symposia topics and workshops and also on the administrative functions of ISTR.

In my report last year I mentioned the cost factor in holding meetings. This year our Treasurer has

summarised the costs of the EC meetings so that we (ISTR) get best value for money. This will be an ongoing exercise to ensure that venues for meetings are cost effective.

ISTR is fortunate in that we have a healthy financial balance and this will be outlined further in the Treasurer's report. The subject matters for the past year's symposia and workshop have attracted excellent numbers in terms of participants and high quality speakers. It is important that we continue to select appropriate areas as subjects both for symposia and workshops. In my report last year I emphasised that members must and should play a part in determining what subjects are covered in symposia and workshops. I again ask that members actively consider what should be covered in future symposia and workshops and contact any EC member.

2. Membership

Our Membership Secretary, Mark Cheshire (Bristol University), unfortunately cannot be present at this AGM. Mark because of other commitments cannot continue to serve on the EC. Mark has produced his report for the AGM.

The current membership of the institution stands at;

2004 / 2005	2003 / 2004
3 Fellows (Plus 3 Lapsed/Retired)	2 Fellows
156 Members	138 Members
38 Associates	40 Associates
36 Retired	23 Retired
24 New Members/Associates	18 New Members/Associates
	1 upgrade to Full Member
1 Resignation	
TOTAL 197	TOTAL 180

24 new members (18) or associates (6) have been approved since the July AGM last year. This reflects a steady growth in the membership year on year of 8.5%.

It shows that the steady growth in membership has continued under his stewardship. The EC would like to thank Mark for all the work that he has done for ISTR over the past few years.

3. Symposia and Skills Development Workshops

We ran two very successful symposia in partnership with Eli Lilly and the Medical Research Council in November of last year. A skills development workshop was organised in May of this year. David Heath is the co-ordinator for these events. A great deal of hard work goes into making these meetings successful much of it behind the scenes. David's work and organisational skills ensures that all our meetings run smoothly and efficiently and it is a pleasure to record our thanks for all his efforts.

4. Bulletin and WWW Home Page

Dr Fred Young is our Bulletin organiser. The Bulletin is mailed to each member and it is also published on the ISTR Web site. Fred also maintains the WEB site. Again much of this work goes on behind the scenes and it is a pleasure to thank Fred for all the work that he does on behalf of ISTR.

5. Correspondence

A reminder that ISTR are asked to respond to consultation documents by various bodies. It is important that we continue to make contributions and again I ask members who would wish to be involved in this process to contact any EC member.

6. Executive Committee Changes

Mark Cheshire and Marion Murphy step down from the EC after the AGM. Mark has streamlined the membership procedure and it is a pleasure to thank him for his valuable contribution. Marion took on the portfolio of business sponsorship for our symposia. This was a completely new venture and we (ISTR) have profited well from her efforts in searching out and obtaining sponsorship from various sources. It is a pleasure to thank Marion for her work in promoting this new venture.

Rob Wood steps down as chair at this AGM. Rob has guided the EC and ISTR through some major changes. We now have a very active biological subgroup formed under Rob's guidance. As a chair he has allowed discussion to take place at EC meetings, sometimes these discussions were of a heated nature, but he always controlled the debate and condensed and summarised the critical points. It's my pleasure to thank Rob for being chair over the past three years and for the help he has given to me. We will not lose Rob's expertise since from this AGM he will take up the position of Treasurer.

Heather Sheeley takes the chair from this AGM and we welcome Heather and wish her well as chair.

Finally, let me welcome the two new members to the EC, Jayne Thomas (Medical Research Council) and Vincent Theobald (Newcastle University).

Arthur Mitchell



HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts presented at the AGM reflect the Executive Committee's response to members' requests to improve the transparency of the Annual Accounts. As in the previous year, they were accompanied by notes indicating the extent of profits and losses made on individual activities and events. These notes take account of event-related income and expenditure items that occur outside the financial

year forming the subject of the annual report. The Hon. Treasurer reported an excess of income over expenditure of £4018 (compared with last year's deficit of £2155). Total subscription income was



down by £289 compared with the previous year; however the earlier figures had been boosted by a successful campaign to collect arrears. In fact, the figure for subscriptions collected in the year when they fall due actually showed a small increase (£41) over the preceding year. Once again, the collection process was facilitated by sending subscription invoices by E-mail.

Bank interest net of charges was £943 compared with £322 in the preceding year as this was the first full year in which we received interest net of tax and kept a substantial proportion of our reserves in a High Interest Deposit bond.

The year 2004 annual conference in Southampton made a loss of £317 compared with a loss of £345 for the 2003 annual conference held in Cardiff. The November Symposia again proved very popular, and showed a profit of £2726 compared with a profit of £2929 in the preceding year. The Institute's Spring Skills Workshop took place after the end of the current financial year; hence the accounts reflect only a proportion of the income and an even smaller part of

the expenditure which took place before the end of the accounting period. Early indications are that the event will produce a small profit this year, even though there is a tradition of subsidising this event by up to £1000 per annum.

Expenditure on "administration" was lower at £3739 compared with £5235 in the previous year, largely because we spent less on travel and subsistence. Holding one fewer committee meeting, or receiving an invoice for committee accommodation the other side of the financial year end can make a substantial difference to the year's total. The capital reserve remains robust and adequate for the present activities of the Institute. However all organisations must move with the times and it may be that the Institute will in due course identify new members' needs that can only be satisfied by investing some of the reserves to develop additional activities.

The Treasurer summarised the current finances of the Institute as remaining in a healthy state and recommended that subscription rates remain at their current level.

Stuart Thompson



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Looking back over the past three years, I see an organisation that has not stood still, is not satisfied that it has delivered something of



value to its members and is not content to continue with the same formula or round robin of events. I see an organisation that, like its members and its title, is interested in research; in trying new things; in – to utilise an over-used modern term – continual development.

As I look back on my previous reports as Chair I see both successes and a few failures. Where things have not gone so well we have listened, studied and adapted our views or the way we work. I feel that the ISTR is a more focused and effective organisation now, with a clearer view of what it wants to provide to its members and how it is going to do so. I would be proud to say that this was due to my chairmanship, but I am even more proud to say that it has had nothing to do with that, but it is due to the members of the committee and the Institute who are continually providing new ideas and stimulation in to the Institute's activities.

Probably the most significant change in the past three years has been the formation of the Bio-Safety Group within ISTR. This has injected a lot of new interest and ideas. Biological safety has had an increased importance and profile over recent years and we had seen the ISTR events developing more and more of a biological focus, so the new group, with their own events has allowed the committee to focus on alternative mainstream interests for our events.

The Bio-Safety Group has also, as you will hear today, placed a suggestion for establishing ISTR as an accrediting body for professional recognition. Naturally as a group their suggestion is for bio-safety professionals, but the proposal put forward today will be concerned with the wider remit of ISTR accreditation for training and recognition for any of its members (where it is appropriate).

This year has been no different in the provision of successful and exciting events. The Annual Conference of last year at Southampton with its wonderful evening boat trip and an excellent selection of speakers to follow, the Autumn symposium and Bio-Safety conference were both very busy and very well attended and a valuable skills workshop in Birmingham bringing everyone up-to-date and familiarised with many types of workplace monitoring equipment. All of these events were well-attended and from our feedback, provided value to the

members, so the committee can be proud of its efforts.

Your new Chair, (Heather Sheeley), Paul Jackett, the outgoing treasurer (Stuart Thompson) and our Secretary (Arthur Mitchell) have all been instrumental in the developments of the Bio-Safety Group links with ISTR and I would like to thank and commend them for their work.

Heather in particular has been a strong supporter of the new ISTR Award, for which we have no formal nominations this year. In part at least this has to be down to some lack of planning in reminding members of the Award and in the lack of any formal paperwork on which to submit a nomination. This has all been corrected now and I would like to remind all members of the opportunity to nominate a person or persons who have provided a significant contribution to health and safety in research or technology. A nomination form is available and should be sent to a committee member, preferably by the end of December of this year, to allow the committee plenty of time to make a decision before the AGM of next year.

Mark Cheshire has been a busy person in the background and so is often not singled out for praise, but not only does he provide a valuable contribution at committee meetings, he also looks after the membership roll of the Institute, dealing with applications, welcoming new members and keeping Stuart straight on who should be invoiced.

David Heath is a mine of contacts, extremely well-

organised and virtually irreplaceable as our Programmes Organiser. It is largely down to the efforts and reminders of David that events run as smoothly as they often do.

Marion Murphy has been a relative new-comer in to the group, but has brought in many fresh new ideas and a certain busy-ness and drive about her that has moved particular aspects of the committee work forward quite rapidly.

Fred Young has been a co-opted member of the group for many years and almost single-handedly runs the ISTR Bulletin and web pages. Fred also provides an extremely valuable anchor in committee meetings for when the discussion gets a little fanciful or seems to be moving too far from the aims of the Institute. We all need that rock to keep us grounded whilst changing the world.

This highly valuable, talented and motivated team have been the people that have moved ISTR forward over the past few years. I am sorry that we will be losing Stuart Thompson, Mark Cheshire and Marion Murphy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all very, very much for their help, support and work over the past few years.

We will be getting new blood into the team and I look forward to working with our new committee members as I stand down from Chair as I have at least another year to continue on the committee.

Robert Wood

ELECTIONS

Annual elections for the honorary officers' posts of Treasurer and Secretary

There was only one nomination for each of the posts: Robert Wood, Honorary Treasurer, and Dr Arthur Mitchell, Honorary Secretary, were declared elected.

There were two **Executive Committee** vacancies this time and two nominations. Jayne Thomas and Vincent Theobald were declared elected. Vincent has also taken on the role of Membership Secretary.

...and after the AGM



Following the AGM delegates enjoyed a coach and walking tour of Edinburgh, regarded by some as the Athens of the North and one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Its landmarks are known throughout the world. And we shared it with the world because our stay coincided with the G8 summit!



Our walking tour took us underground to subterranean workshops and streets of 18th Century Edinburgh, a dimly lit, long forgotten world of workshops and dank air, established long before the advent of modern Health and Safety standards.



These underground vaults were re-discovered in the mid 1980s far below the busy, bustling Edinburgh streets - chambers built of ancient Edinburgh stone, with arched ceilings, fireplaces and 18th century wine vaults - that had been abandoned for nearly two hundred years. They lie beneath the South Bridge, one of the city's main thoroughfares. The rooms, both small and large, were used as cellars, workshops and houses by those with businesses on the bridge above. The South Bridge was not given sufficient waterproofing, so the rooms were abandoned soon after they were built.



The Symposium dinner, traditional Scottish fare, was held in the stylish gothic St Leonard's Hall, situated in the shadow of the even more imposing, famous Edinburgh landmark, Arthur's Seat.



St Leonards Hall



The volcanic outcrop behind St Leonards Hall known as Arthur's Seat



Closer view of the magnificent carved fire surround



A small fragment of the ceiling frieze, in wood!

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES – NOVEL RISKS

ISTR SYMPOSIUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, 6 JULY 2005

David Heath, ISTR Events Secretary, has produced the following account of the symposium proceedings (members may download presentations from the ISTR Members' web page)

The Chair of ISTR, Heather Sheeley, welcomed Nigel

Paul, Director of safety at the University who in turn welcomed some 47 delegates to the symposium and the city of Edinburgh. He hoped the presence of the G8 summit wouldn't disrupt our proceedings. He believed the major challenges facing our membership are the need to protect our staff from physical

hazards, the need to engage senior management at an early stage when new projects and opportunities come along and the need to counter public perceptions about health and safety and educate them whenever possible about risks to society..

HSE Concerns about new technology

Brian Fulham from the HSE

Brian Fulham explained the HSE's approach to new technology, that of a sensible and balanced cautious approach while engaging the public to maintain their trust and confidence. The regulations are already in place – the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations and the COSHH Regulations. HSE has a dedicated team looking at new technology, such as nanotechnology and has undertaken a number of studies with learned bodies (RSC) to look at the impact these new area of science present. With nanotechnology, possible areas of concern include the altered toxicity of small particles, potential to travel through the body, through skin or the blood/brain barrier, their surface charge and hence their altered fire and explosion characteristics. There are also gaps in nomenclature, measurement techniques and what to measure. Turning to the hydrogen economy and its potential for the future, the hazards are considerable but are well understood. Hydrogen powered vehicles are becoming more common which will help to dispel public fears based on old technology for handling and storage. He finished by reiterating that the approach should be sensible and precautionary risk management.

Assessing risks in new projects

Fabrice Lapique, DNV consulting

Fabrice Lapique from explained the need to manage risk with new technologies, to meet legislative requirements, public perception and financial responsibility. Looking at nanoparticles, there is little known about the health risks but applying the general principles of risk assessment can help – what can go wrong, how bad, how often and then the controls. However just evaluating exposure can be difficult as there are no agreed metrics – do we use mass concentration, number concentration, surface area or surface charge ? How do we limit exposure (PPE) and do we need to ? Consumers are already being exposed to these materials, with so far no adverse effects.

Hazards of new materials

Professor Paul O'Brien, Head of Chemistry, University of Manchester

Paul O'Brien gave us a fascinating lecture on the physics and chemistry of new materials such as nanotubes, buckminster fullerene and bucky balls. We now have the technology to see nanoparticles using scanning tunnel electron microscopy and Paul showed some amazing pictures of the surfaces of particles. Whereas conventional small particles are produced by division of larger one, Paul explained the technology of nucleation and growth of precursors to

form nanoparticles. One application of the technology is to make quantum dots which fluoresce with different colours depending on the particle size. Bucky balls (60 carbon atoms linked as the panels on a football) are not new – any smoky flame produces them in abundance, so they have been around since man created fire. Nanotubes however are new and here the toxicology is more uncertain. Breathe in soot and the lung defences catch and expel the particles. In rats and mice nanotubes cause severe inflammation and even death. Quoting the Royal society report – we recommend that lifecycle assessments be undertaken for applications of nanotechnologies... until more is known we recommend that the release of manufactured nanoparticles and nanotubes into the environment be avoided as far as possible.

Opportunities fo nanotechnology in industry

Del Stark, Business development manger, Institute of Nanotechnology, Stirling University

Del Stark assured the audience that much of the hype around nanotechnology is pure fantasy, in the realm of the fiction writer. However, a lot of Companies are taking the matter seriously, seeing market opportunity for enhanced products, including the military. Nanotechnology offers enhanced products – stronger, lighter, cheaper, more effective, and new markets such as security printing, glass coatings, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, anti graffiti surfaces. Looking to the future, miniaturisation of sensors will revolutionise our whole lifestyle and environment, even having diagnostic sensors in our toothbrushes. The role of the Institute of Nanotechnology is to generate collaborations between researchers and commerce.

The science and health risks of nanotechnology

Rob Aitken, Institute of Occupational Medicine

Rob Aitken talked about risks to health and the environment from deliberately engineered nanoparticles. Their toxicity is determined by the total surface area, the surface chemical reactivity, their physical dimensions and their solubility, which all vary with particle size. Those at risk of exposure are lab staff, production workers, the consumer, waste operatives and the food chain as a whole. The routes of entry into the body are mainly by inhalation through the nose, then into the brain and lungs, via the gut by ingestion, hence also into the lungs and via the skin. In the lung they may produce asthma but will most certainly enter the blood stream and hence be delivered to many organs, where they may produce immunological or epidemiological effects. Health recommendations include a multidisciplinary approach to research, the need for analytical methods for exposure assessment, protocols for long term fate of NP's in products, epidemiological studies of exposure related ill health, studies of the mechanisms and interactions of NP's, Protocols for invivo and in vitro studies and International agreement on all aspects of their production and use. Their effect on the

environment should also be studied, how they are transported and interact with other materials in soil and water, their fate in waste streams. Again there is a need to develop methods of monitoring NPs in the environment. As well as the HSE a number of researchers are working on NPs in the UK. There is EU funded research on NPs and a number of researchers have formed SnIRC, Safety of Nanomaterials Integrated Research Centre, to meet the needs of the Royal Society proposals. SnIRC is already carrying out research on many of the concerns raised above, including environmental fate, health risk and mechanisms / interactions of NPs.

Tetra radio waves

Adam Lowe, Occupational Services Department, Radiation Division, HPA. (formerly NRPB)

Adam Lowe, the final speaker of the day talked about TETRA waves – Terrestrial Trunked Radio. Tetra operates in the UHF around 400 MHz and there have been concerns expressed about the safety of such

high powered waves. Main users are the emergency services. The main hazard for us is exposure close to the transmitter, which may be located on the top of some University buildings. To prevent harm, an exclusion zone is set up in front of the mast, with a physical barrier and warning signs. Usually access to roofs will be restricted anyway, so the general public / students should not be exposed. TETRA waves are continuous, unlike mobile phone waves which are pulsed. The NRPB advice is that the TETRA masts present no additional danger over conventional mobile phone masts and so no additional precautions need to be taken. However, until more information becomes available, the recommendation is that a precautionary approach is taken. There is a EU directive, the electromagnetic Fields Directive which lays down minimum H&S requirements for exposure of workers. The HSE will be responsible for making UK regulations; a CD should be published in 2006 with the regulations in place by 2008.

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has met at The University of Edinburgh in July 2005 and the University of Birmingham in September 2005. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

November 2005 Symposia

The title for the general symposium, Better Waste Management. On the following day, Biosafety Symposium organised by the northern Sub-group - topic Gene Therapy.

Charges for ISTR Events

It was noted that the differential charges for members as against non-members at meetings had encouraged further applications for membership.

Skills Development Workshop March 2006

Topic: "Root Cause Analysis" is being considered for spring 2006.

AGM/Symposium June 2006

The theme will be "Risk Management and the Safety Professional". Venue: Dublin City University

Training and Accreditation of BSO's by ISTR

There was further discussion on the nature of the working party and Dr Paul Jackett would be invited to lead the working party if the proposal was accepted at the AGM.

Membership Subscriptions

A rise in the subscription, differential rates for members and associates and moving to a common date for collection are under consideration.

ISTR Skills Development Workshop MEASURING AND MONITORING

David Heath writes. 16 members attended the spring Workshop on Measuring and monitoring at the University of Birmingham in May. In the morning Steve Robertson of Crowthorne HiTech went through air flow monitoring, dust monitoring and noise surveys, illustrated with a comprehensive array of monitoring equipment.

In the afternoon, Mike Slater of Diamond Environmental Ltd talked about the thermal environment and sick building syndrome, with hands on measurement using simple thermal measuring devices.

PREVIOUS HSC CONSULTATIONS

Two sets of new guidance from the HSE that were the subject of HSC consultations that the ISTR responded to have now been published and are accessible free on the HSE website:

Controlling the risks from infection at work from human remains

[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/funeraldoc.pdf> and

Biological Agents

[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/biologagents.pdf>]

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

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ASBESTOS REGULATIONS AND AN APPROVED CODE OF PRACTICE

This Consultative Document (CD) seeks views on draft Regulations and an Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) to implement amendments to the European Asbestos Worker Protection Directive (AWPD) and other changes to the existing asbestos regulatory framework.

There are currently three sets of regulations that control exposure to asbestos:

- *The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002* (CAW), which govern the way all work with asbestos is done, to ensure it is done safely;
- *The Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983* (ASLIC), as amended, which require work

with all the more hazardous asbestos-containing materials to be done by a contractor licensed by HSE;

- *The Asbestos (Prohibitions) Regulations 1992*, as amended, which ban the importation, supply and use of raw asbestos and asbestoscontaining materials.

The proposals repeal and replace CAW, ASLIC and the Prohibitions Regulations.

Closing date for comments 31 January 2006

[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd205.htm>]

Health and Safety Commission

ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFENCES

Prosecution is the main means by which the health and safety enforcing authorities (mainly HSE and the local authorities) hold to account those alleged to have committed serious breaches of health and safety law.

Health and safety law provides few sentencing options for the courts, and conviction usually results in a fine. However, the wider criminal justice system provides many ways by which to hold an offender to account. Some may be appropriate to health and safety

offences. This is particularly true of those which could:

- provide incentives to comply with the law;
- enhance the role of victims;
- offer more restitution to the business community and employees; or
- help ensure that lessons are learnt and offences are not repeated.

And alternative penalties are already used in many health and safety systems in Europe and Australia, for instance. This is why HSE is considering what the

impact would be of introducing alternative penalties for health and safety offences. HSE has raised with some key stakeholders the possible application of restorative elements in the justice system - for example, conditional cautioning. Considerable interest was shown.

This debate is now being expanded to include other alternative penalties such as administrative fines and adverse publicity orders. HSE also intend to commission research into the use of alternative penalties elsewhere.

A snapshot of the alternative sanctions that have been mentioned in the health and safety context, together with some suggested issues for discussion, can be found at a link on the link below. The list is not exhaustive, and HSE would welcome views on these or any other penalties.

Closing date for comments 31 December 2005
[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/penalties.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSING EXEMPTIONS RELATING TO HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Government and the National Assembly for Wales is reviewing a number of exemptions to the waste management licensing system. Exemptions from waste management licensing are set out in Schedule 3 of the *Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994* (as amended). The exemptions under review are principally those which cover hazardous waste, although where these exemptions include non-hazardous wastes they are also addressed. This consultation paper seeks comments on our proposed changes.

On 12 October 2004 the European Court of Justice declared against the United Kingdom for failure to fulfil its obligations under the Hazardous Waste Directive. This consultation proposes changes to the regime of waste management licensing exemptions in England and Wales which fully meet the requirements of the Directive. Together with the *Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005*, and the

Hazardous Waste (Wales) Regulations 2005, these changes will complete the full transposition of the Directive in England and Wales.

Many hazardous wastes have a market value if collected in sufficient quantities. The Government's intention is to have in place a regulatory framework that encourages the existence of sufficient sites to facilitate their collection and storage pending recovery. This review intends to maintain the benefits of existing exemptions in the light of newly hazardous wastes while making the exemptions compliant with European legislation.

Closing date for comments 16 December 2005.
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/hazwaste/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
PROPOSED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR HANDLERS OF OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES UNDER EC REGULATION 2037/2000

Proposed minimum qualifications for handlers of ozone depleting substances under EC Regulation 2037/2000

EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer requires Member States to define minimum qualification requirements for personnel involved in the recovery, recycling, reclamation and destruction of controlled ozone-depleting substances (ODS), the prevention and minimisation of leakages of controlled substances and the prevention and minimisation of leakages of methyl bromide from fumigation installations and operations in which methyl bromide is used.

The UK has well established and extensive qualification requirements, developed by industry, which apply on a voluntary basis and the Government's view is that they have been adequate to meet the EC Regulation's requirements. The European Commission has however disagreed, taking the view that the qualification requirements need to be given statutory force, and are undertaking infractions proceedings against the UK.

The Government plans to introduce new regulations setting out the mandatory minimum qualifications in order to close the infractions case. This consultation paper seeks views on the proposed regulations and qualifications, which have been drawn up on the basis

of discussions with stakeholder organisations whose members are likely to be affected.

The proposed regulations specify the minimum qualifications for personnel handling ozone depleting substances in a number of sectors, including refrigeration and air-conditioning, fire protection using halons, fumigations using methyl bromide and solvents. The regulations cover personnel servicing and maintaining or disposing of waste equipment containing ODS and those recycling, reclaiming or destroying ODS.

The regulations specify the minimum qualification for each activity/sector. For some activities the regulations specify externally awarded qualifications whilst other activities are covered by in-house training schemes, such as low skill repetitive tasks using automated equipment or skilled work where there are few personnel working in the industry.

In practice, most personnel who need qualifications (such as refrigeration/air conditioning servicing personnel and fumigators) already hold them, however, for those personnel who do not, the regulations contain a transitional provision so that unqualified personnel can continue to work whilst gaining the qualification (a transitional period of 6 months is proposed). The regulations also address the need for trainees to carry out work under supervision.

Finally, the regulations set out the offences and penalties, which provide that personnel (including employers) who do not comply with the regulations will be guilty of an offence.

Closing date for comments 14 February 2006
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ozone-depleting/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
UK'S PLANS AND PROGRAMMES TO MEET LIMIT VALUES SET IN: DIRECTIVE 1999/30/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO LIMIT VALUES FOR SULPHUR DIOXIDE, NITROGEN DIOXIDE AND OXIDES OF NITROGEN, PARTICULATE MATTER AND LEAD IN AMBIENT AIR

This consultation paper seeks views on the UK Government and Devolved Administrations' report to the European Commission on Plans and Programmes to meet the ambient air quality limit values for pollutants set under the First Air Quality Daughter Directive (1999/30/EC), produced in accordance with requirements under the Air Quality Framework Directive (1996/62/EC). The report is due to be sent to the European Commission by the end of 2005, and refers to the reporting year 2003.

The First Daughter Directive sets binding limit values for nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead, to be met by various dates between 2001 and 2010 by all Member States. Under the Directive, Member States are required to report to the Commission each year whether or not the limit values set in the Directive have been achieved. Where the limit values are exceeded, Member States are required by the Framework Directive to produce plans and programmes in order to ensure compliance with the limit values within the required timescale, and to submit these to the European Commission. Hence the report does **not** contain new policy proposals; it simply sets out the package of measures already in place to deliver the limit values

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations' main policies and measures for achieving the limit values are set out in the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and

first Addendum. The Strategy sets national objectives and measures to achieve those objectives for the pollutants covered by the First Daughter Directive which are either equal to or more stringent than those set by the Directive.

Other national actions and programmes will also play a role in the achievement of the limit values. These include the Energy White Paper, the Future of Transport White Paper and the Air Transport White Paper, the UK Climate Change Programme and the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. They also include industrial regulatory controls, such as implementation of the Large Combustion Plant Directive and the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Regulations.

The Local Air Quality Management system is also a component of the UK's approach to addressing specific exceedences. Under this system, local authorities which identify that further actions are needed to work towards achieving the national air quality objectives within the required timescale must declare an Air Quality Management Area, and produce an action plan indicating how the objectives will be achieved in the designated area. Local authorities are required to consult with the public in the formulation of their action plans.

The Commission has asked for a report on Member States' actions using a number of questionnaires

recording largely numerical data. The format of the questionnaires cannot be changed.

Closing date for comments 30 January 2006
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/air-1daughter2005/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

TSE BREEDING PROGRAMME FOR RARE BREEDS OF SHEEP

This consultation seeks views on how to apply a breeding programme to reduce scrapie susceptibility in rare breeds of sheep.

During the Autumn of 2004, Defra performed a consultation on the future strategic direction of the National Scrapie Plan (NSP), which is an integral part of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. The main reason for the consultation was to outline various options on how Commission Decision 2003/100/EC should be implemented. This Decision lays down minimum requirements for the establishment of breeding programmes for the eradication of TSEs in sheep.

However the consultation exercise in 2004 did not address the needs of the rare breeds of sheep and at that time we made a commitment to consult separately on how to apply a breeding programme to rare breeds of sheep, as recognised by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Based on the results of research investigating the impact that the removal of scrapie susceptible animals might have on rare breeds of sheep, Defra has drawn up a number of options on how a breeding programme could be applied and we are keen to seek your views on these options.

Within Commission Decision 2003/100/EC there are a number of derogations that can be applied to either breeds that are in danger of being lost to farming or low levels of scrapie resistance. The consultation

paper outlines the details of the derogations and comments are sought on how the derogations should be applied.

The paper also outlines two main options on how a breeding programme could be applied to rare breeds of sheep:

- The first is where rare breeds that the research indicated could remove the most susceptible scrapie genotypes (those carrying VRQ) would be required to join the compulsory ram genotyping scheme being implemented for the mainstream breeds. The remainder of the rare breeds would receive genotyping and breeding advice based on the recommendations from the research project but would not be required to action on scrapie susceptible sheep.
- The other option would not require any of the rare breeds to join the compulsory ram genotyping scheme. All rare breeds would be treated the same with them receiving genotyping and breeding advice based on the recommendations from the research project. There would be no requirement to action on scrapie susceptible sheep.

Closing date for comments 24th January 2006

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tseprog-rarebreeds/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

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