



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

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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

Annual General Meeting, Dublin 2006

Honoured Members



David Heath was elected Fellow of the Institute for his “work in organising conferences/symposia, etc”. David, pictured on left, is congratulated by former ISTR Chair, Rob Wood.

Presentations were also made to the first recipients of the **ISTR Award, Paul Jackett and David Heath**, details inside.



Our new Vice-Chair, Mark Hoare, Health and Safety Adviser at the University of Birmingham. A graduate in mining engineering, Mark’s final position with British Coal was as a Health and Safety Manager. He is current Chair of Birmingham Health, Safety and Environment Association. Mark’s specialisms are engineering and health and safety management.

See inside for further details of the AGM, the “Traditional Irish Evening” and the Symposium on the following day. Many thanks to Eileen Tully at DCU for all her efforts and support.

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 Robin Butler, Mr David Massey, Mr John Nelson,
Mr Andrew Pollitt, Frances Quigley, Mr J John
Richmond, Ms Linda Simpson and Mr Michael Smith.

Associate Members:

David Knight and Dr Joan Simon

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



ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2006/2007

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

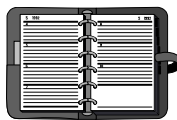
Mrs J (**Jayne**) **Thomas**,
Head of Health and Safety,
MRC Harwell

Mr MRH (**Mark**) **Hoare**, (*Vice-Chair*)
Health and Safety Adviser,
The University of Birmingham

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

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

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Skills Development Workshop 2007

It is hoped to run a workshop in March on DSEAR.

2007 AGM and Symposium

The venue is Exeter University on 4 and 5 July 2007.
The title is "Occupational Health for the 21st Century".

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

ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

The Institute's Annual General Meeting took place at the Dublin City University on 21 June 2006, and followed the Agenda sent to all members in advance of the meeting. Draft minutes of the AGM can be downloaded from the Members' section of the ISTR website [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>]



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Committee Meetings Since the AGM held in Edinburgh 2005, the Executive Committee have met five times. The meetings were held in Birmingham on September 19th, Lincoln on December 20th, HPA Chilton on March 9th, Birmingham on the 30th May and finally here in Dublin on June 21st. These meetings decide upon new membership applications, the topics and subject matter for our Symposia and Workshops, the financial aspects of administering ISTR and finally this year the committee has looked at the reports and feedback from the two working parties that were set-up following last year's AGM decision to look at the feasibility of ISTR becoming an accrediting body.

I have to pay credit to my colleagues on the Executive Committee for the work that each person undertakes, both at the meetings but also the immense amount of work that is carried out between each meeting. ISTR is fortunate to have these dedicated individuals on its Executive Committee.

Membership Vincent Theobald took over as Membership Secretary last year and will present his report to the AGM. Vincent has improved and streamlined the process by which the Executive Committee consider applications from new members.

Our membership database has been updated allowing a clearer picture of the current membership status.

Bulletin and the ISTR Web Site Fred Young does a great deal of work on behalf of ISTR in compiling the Bulletin and maintaining the Web site. This is extremely important since for many this may well be their first insight into the role and function of the Institute and first time impressions are critical. It is once again a pleasure to thank Fred on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Email Discussion List Mark Hoare maintains and gives us advice on the mail base, again an important communication tool. The Executive Committee appreciate the work that Mark does and look forward to welcoming him as the vice-chair.

Symposia and Developmental Workshop Since last year's AGM, a 2 day symposium (3rd and 4th November) was held on "Better Waste Management" followed by a day devoted to the subject of Gene Therapy. The workshop in March of this year was looking at

accidents and in particular "Root Cause Analysis". It would be useful if members, who consider that a particular subject matter should be addressed at future symposia or workshops, contact any Executive Member with their suggestion. David Heath does a great deal of work on behalf of the Committee and membership in organising both Symposia and Workshops.

Finance Our Treasurer, Rob Wood, continues to ensure that finances are healthy and that expenditure on your behalf is prudent. ISTR are fortunate to be in a healthy financial state and the stewardship of Rob is greatly appreciated.

Finally, at the time of writing it appears unlikely that our chair, Heather Sheeley, will be able to attend. Heather has allowed lively and frank discussions to take place at Executive Committee meetings whilst exerting polite but firm controls. Her presence will be missed in Dublin but all of us send our best wishes and look forward to welcoming her back in the near future.

*Dr Arthur R Mitchell
Hon. Secretary*



HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The statement of account was tabled at the AGM. An apparent increase in last year's income was due to unpaid bills from the previous year. The finances are stable but not increasing and I have a slight concern about this. The main reason is if we look at membership income it remains static and we survive by income from conferences. The present

administration cost is £5,000 – i.e. the cost of running the Committee – the hire of rooms is the main reason for the increase. Although the proposal in item 8 of the agenda is to continue membership fee at the present level subscriptions may rise in coming years - the Executive Committee is still debating this issue.

*Rob Wood
Hon. Treasurer*



CHAIR'S REPORT

Firstly my great disappointment at not being able to attend the AGM and Summer Symposium in Dublin due to ill-health. I hope that all the attenders thoroughly enjoy the important topic of Emergency and Contingency Planning and the opportunity to network and may be visit Dublin's famous sites.

ISTR continues to be vibrant and effective in supporting and promoting the roles of its members.

Many of our members work very hard not only for their employer but in developing and sharing their efforts with others. In recognition of the efforts over many years by David Heath of Syngenta in putting together not only the programmes of meeting, tracking down and securing speakers and securing suitable venues and accommodation. He is to be awarded as Fellow of the Institute.

Similarly I am particularly pleased that the Award for Outstanding Activity by a member has come to fruition again as a means recognising and sharing these special efforts. This year there award goes to David Heath for *Chemical, Booms Bangs and Burns* which is widely used by other Safety Advisors in training, and to Dr Paul Jackett for the web based training on Microbiological Safety Cabinets. If you have made a special effort or know another member who has don't be shy.

This past year has been as busy as any, with a Skills Development Workshop in March on *Root Cause Analysis*, the autumn symposium on *Better Waste Management* and the 3rd Bio meeting on *Gene Therapy*. The 2005 Summer Symposium on Emerging Technologies and Novel Risks in Edinburgh which clashed with the G8 meeting was well appreciated. The bio groups have continued to

meeting at various venues and on a variety of topics; interest and participation continues to grow. Although the Hasnet ISTR chat has been light it continues to be a useful forum for information and discussion similarly the bio mailings have been vibrant.

The membership database has been overhauled and shortly we can expect a new version of the members' directory. Efforts will be doubled to ensure all who could benefit from membership are aware of the benefits and value of being part of such a respected community. The finances have been well managed and remain healthy. One of the challenges for the Executive and my role as Chair has been to be prudent with the Institute funds. Reviews of expenditure and actual cost of each meeting have assessed and the financial security of the Institute is sound. While the membership fee remains at current levels this may not be sustainable. The website remains our major shop window and continues to hold meeting details/reports and useful links. The popular

bulletin will be shortly distributed.

The future meeting topics remain interesting and details can be found on the web site as venues are confirmed.

A major activity has been the working group looking into accreditation by ISTR for biosafety specialists and maybe at some later stage other specialisms. It is early days in this process but this is welcomed by the HSE and the European Biosafety Association who are working on related topics.

Once again the programme for the Summer Symposium on *Risk Management and the Safety Professional* brings great speakers and important information for members to take back and use in the improvement of their institutes plans and response. My personal thanks to Eileen Tulley and DCU for hosting the meeting.

Heather Sheeley

ELECTIONS

Election for the post of Vice-Chair is held at the end of the first year of the current Chair's term of office. As there was only one nomination Mark Hoare was declared elected.

Elections for the honorary officers' posts of Treasurer and Secretary are held annually. As 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 no **Executive Committee** vacancies this time.

Election of Fellow David Heath was elected for his outstanding service to the Institute.

ISTR AWARD

Presentations were also made to the first recipients of the *ISTR Award*:



Dr Paul Jackett, for "The development and production

of a useful training aid on the use of safety cabinets"



and David Heath for "Chemical Booms, Bangs and Burns". (on Members' section of the ISTR website [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>])

Now is the time to put forward 2007 nominees – the nomination form can be downloaded from the Members' section of the ISTR website [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>].

..and after the AGM

After the AGM, writes David Heath, 43 Members and guests travelled by coach from DCU to Dublin City centre for an hour's relaxation, site-seeing, shopping or visiting the local watering holes.



At 7.30pm we met up at the Arlington hotel, where O'Connell street meets the river Liffey, for a traditional 'Irish evening'.

We were entertained by a 3 piece local group singing modern and traditional Irish songs while we ate



traditional Irish fare (Irish stew, steak and Guinness pie, Irish salmon, washed down with more Guinness.



During the interval we also watched the resident Irish dancers. A good time was had by all, even if the music was a little loud for some of us.



RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL

ISTR SYMPOSIUM AT Dublin City University, 22 June 2006

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

We were honoured to have the President of DCU, Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski, who welcomed the 65 delegates to Dublin.

Corporate Governance

Dr Brian Norton – President, Dublin Institute of Technology

Professor Norton talked about embedding risk management in the governance and culture of an institution. Risk must be managed in every aspect of an institution or establishment, from finance to technology to the quality of the service offered, such as teaching. Risk management will identify the weaknesses or threats but also the strengths or opportunities. How is it done – by internal audit, checking that internal controls are in place. Originally

these were checking physical aspects, security, then finance, then ethics and now corporate governance.

Emergency Risk Management

Les Moseley - Coventry University

Les Moseley explained the steps required for planning for an emergency, so that the plan works on the day. He asked how healthy is your plan? Creating a working plan starts with defining the project, identifying the hazards, threats and risks and putting in place mitigation strategies. The plan may be made up of sub sets – crisis management, evacuation, resource procurement, welfare, recovery.

Setting Up Plans, Including Desk Top Exercises

Robert Wood - University of Lincoln

Robert Wood from the University of Lincoln explained how to set up table-top exercises based on realistic threats. As an example he described his own worst case, flooding of the Lincoln campus. As well as considering the threats to you, consider your threats

to others i.e. the local community. Exercises can be played out in real time with information fed in to the scenario room to maintain the realism for the players, e.g. coping with sudden loss of services such as power or communications. Live exercises can then re-run some of the scenarios.

The Impact of Civil Emergency Planning on Our Planning

Alastair Sinclair, Emergency Planning Consultant

The morning session was concluded with a presentation by Alastair Sinclair on civil emergency planning, in particular what they can offer us under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA). He explained emergencies do happen, to us, and are usually totally unexpected. The CCA requires responders to co-operate on 2 levels. Category 1 are the emergency services and front line providers, led and co-ordinated by the police. Cat 2 are service providers such as BT, power companies and agencies such as the HSE, EA, DEFRA.

But remember, we might be on our own! If everyone else is dealing with their own emergency such as a disease outbreak there may be no-one to come and help us. So our plans have to be robust. As the other speakers described, identify the hazards and evaluate the risks, some may be critical to your business, some may not. Then plan and practice. In a real emergency ordinary people do their jobs or fulfil their roles in extra ordinary circumstances, so much better if they are trained and have practice. Their commitment will be gained if they are involved in the

planning. If they are not involved they won't get involved on the day.

Working Overseas

Dr Drew Rankine, University of Glasgow

After lunch Drew Rankine talked about personal health and safety of our staff when overseas. The risk has to be managed to prevent a host of ills. Work overseas needs to be assessed for physical hazards, the individual's personal safety may be at risk in some less politically stable countries (we have a value as kidnap victims) and there are a host of nasty diseases in many other parts of the world. Drew gave some basic rules which need to be followed – we need to educate staff before they leave this country.

Pandemics

Michael Gallacher, Irish Emergency planning society

The last speaker, Michael Gallacher, from Cork, who is chair of the Irish Emergency planning society, gave a review of the recent history and potential danger from pandemics. Spanish flu in 1918 took 6 months to travel round the world, H5N1 bird flu if it became transmissible via humans, could take as little as 2 weeks. Guidance is in preparation by the HPA and the World Health organisation but Universities and businesses need to have contingency plans in place should a pandemic break out, to support staff overseas or bring them back. If staff can't get to work, maybe looking after sick relatives, can they work from home ? In short a business continuity plan needs to be worked out in advance, with key personnel identified along with their deputies.

WORKSHOPS

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

Planning a Desktop Exercise

Jayne Thomas, Medical Research Council

This was a syndicate exercise to consider the steps needed to plan a desk-top exercise. The delegates decided the aim of any exercise is to keep going with the minimum of disruption, which in the real situation translates into business continuity. They also decided that an exercise should address the worst case scenario, once that had been identified. Success with the worst case should make subsequent exercises easier. They also agreed that they would rank the essential services in order of priority (water, electricity, gas, telecoms, etc), which may vary depending on the scenario.

Risk profile of an establishment

Anne Trafford, Syngenta

The second workshop involved drawing up a risk profile of a theoretical laboratory building, from a diagram showing key points of interest which turned out to be threats to the building (and hence the business). The risk profile technique, promoted by Zurich Insurance, is designed to identify all the business threats and rank them in terms of severity and likelihood on a matrix. Steps can then be taken to reduce either the severity or likelihood (or both in worst cases) to an acceptable level.

WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ISTR BECOMING AN ACCREDITING BODY – REPORT TO ISTR AGM 2006

Working group remit and organisation

The group is exploring feasibility using a model scheme. The scheme chosen was for Biological Safety training and competence.

A small main working group coordinates the project. Two sub-groups work on the two main areas. This arrangement has had only partial success, especially for the first sub-group who are very dependent on information received from the second. However we have made significant progress.

Sub-group 1

To examine the feasibility of ISTR becoming an accrediting body for training and competence. The group is chaired by Rob Wood. The group had only partial information on the progress of Sub-group 2 but developed 4 options.

Sub-group 2

This group, chaired by Paul Jackett, was charged with exploring the questions of ISTR a) accrediting course providers to provide training on Biosafety to criteria set by ISTR and b) setting achievement criteria for Biological Safety professionals.

The group has recognised that it would be inappropriate to use the term 'Competent BSO' in view of the wide interpretation of its meaning between employers and individuals. Instead, the group has chosen to refer to levels of achievement.

The subgroup decided that it was appropriate to define two levels of achievement. In brief, at level 1, the BSO would be relatively inexperienced but need a broad baseline of knowledge. Typically the individual would be a University Departmental BSO or equivalent, often with access to someone with greater expertise and experience.

Level 2 would be for the biological safety professional. This will be more complex to address, since the subgroup recognises that any scheme would have to recognise knowledge and experience in depth rather, necessarily, than across the board. The subgroup would wish, if ISTR members agree, to spend longer debating the framework for this level.

The sub-group has identified key subject areas, with appropriate weighting and to which learning outcomes can be attached. The focus so far has been on level 1. Courses that meet ISTR content and learning objective requirements for part of, or the entire, scheme would be accredited by ISTR. The obligation will be on course providers to present their case to ISTR that their course meets content criteria. This raises issues of evaluation of teaching/materials and

of the course assessment system and outcome from those providers. Guidance for providers will be developed.

The second part is the accreditation of individual Biosafety Practitioners at the two levels. It is proposed that applicants at level 1 will have to satisfy ISTR that they have achieved the academic requirements through course attendance and meet ISTR membership criteria, with the required experience being in a relevant field. At both levels, the group is considering the option of including transitional measures to ensure inclusivity.

Feasibility

The group considered various options and these have been considered by the Executive Committee. The favoured option is as follows:

- ISTR will establish a scheme of accreditation where it sets the learning objectives and outcomes for course providers.
- This would be done in conjunction with another organisation (possibly a University) that has administrative support that can be 'purchased'.
- This could be a University or another organisation or group of organisations.
- It would entail modest initial and ongoing costs probably in the region of £2,000 - £5,000 in the first year.
- ISTR would rely on a team of volunteer assessors to scrutinise all applications and witness selected courses.
- The group would also consider the issues of cost recovery through levying an appropriate administration charge for course and personal accreditation.

Recommendations to the AGM

The group asks the ISTR membership to consider the interim report and to approve further investigation into the options given. During the next year the working group, with the members' consent, will determine:

- Course objectives and learning outcomes for two achievement levels
- Full criteria for Biological Safety Officers at two achievement levels
- Fully costed options to create and run the scheme with ISTR 'ownership'.

A full and final detailed report will be presented at the AGM 2007.

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has met at Dublin City University in June 2006 and MRC Edinburgh in October 2006. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

November 2006 Symposia

Will follow the established pattern, general and biosafety meetings on consecutive days at same venue. Topic for Biosafety – Back to Basics. Possible venues National Motorcycle Museum and HPA Chilton.

Membership

20 - 24 new members join each year but new members tend not to remain as members i.e. there is a high turnover of new members – topic for future discussion.

The data held on members includes only workplace addresses. A second address will be sought from members so that those who don't notify a change of workplace address can be contacted.

EU Funding

The search for EU funding has been more difficult than envisaged – detailed examination of the rules for funding revealed that the ISTR did not meet the criteria required.

Skills Development Workshop 2007

Topic: Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations - are you complying with DSEAR? The aim of the Workshop was to give the delegates a set of tools to use in the workplace.

AGM Minutes

AGM minutes are not sent out to members until immediately before the next year's AGM. In future, the draft AGM minutes will be placed in the Members' section of the ISTR website and publicised in the

Bulletin as soon as the Executive Committee has approved the draft.

Institute to Institute Links

Partnership with an institute in the US is being considered.

Lack of Communication from HSE

The HSE appears not to formally include ISTR in its consultations – the HSE will be reminded of ISTR and members asked to ensure ISTR is aware and involved in consultations.

ISTR Logo

In its present form, and the large size of the original image, it is not possible to reproduce high quality small scale images of the logo. The style and content of the logo will be reviewed to determine a form that can be reproduced in any scale without loss of quality.

Membership Fee

This will be reviewed and set at an appropriate level in relation to ISTR's running costs.

AGM and Summer Symposium 2007

Venue: University of Exeter, 4 and 5 July 2007. Title: "Occupational Health for the 21st Century". Topics may include: pre-employment screening (drugs, allergies), assessing risks, monitoring the workplace, skin care, nutrients update.

November 2007 Symposia

The title for the general symposium is "Management of Physical Agents". Topics to include: noise and vibration, radio waves, microwave and other non-ionising radiation.

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, current consultations.

The documents may be downloaded from the web addresses provided.

Health and Safety Commission

There are currently no active health and safety consultations

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON THE THEMATIC STRATEGY FOR PESTICIDES: PROPOSALS FOR A DIRECTIVE ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES AND A REGULATION ON PESTICIDE AUTHORISATIONS

Defra seeks views on two EC proposals developed as part of the EC Pesticides Thematic Strategy:

- a new Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides; and
- a Regulation to replace the existing Directive 91/414/EEC which establishes the framework for the authorisation of plant protection products (agricultural pesticides).

The Pesticides Thematic Strategy aims to minimise the risk to health and the environment from the use of pesticides. It includes proposals for four new pieces of legislation, two of which are addressed in the consultation document. The other proposals (on the collection of statistics on plant protection products and

on the certification of new pesticide application equipment) have not yet been published.

The new sustainable use Directive will establish a framework to promote 'best practice' in the storage, use and disposal of pesticides, their waste products and packaging. The sustainable use proposal includes new obligations in relation to the training of pesticide users and involves phasing out the 'grandfather rights' which are currently available to certain UK pesticide users.

Closing date for comments 11 December 2006
[<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/environment.asp?id=1939>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS TO AMEND THE WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSING REGULATIONS 1994 (AS AMENDED), TO INCLUDE FURTHER LICENSING EXEMPTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL WASTE

The proposed amendments aim to allow certain waste recovery and disposal operations to be undertaken in relation to agricultural waste under an exemptions regime, whilst preventing abuse and ensuring protection of the environment and human health.

Closing date for comments 15 December 2006
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wasteman-agri/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANT: 2007/08 RISK BASED FEES AND CHARGES

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 provide for the setting of fees and charges for Local Air Pollution Control (LAPC), Local Air - Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC), and Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) at levels that will recover costs of local authorities of implementing the system.

This consultation relates to the LAPC, LAPPC and LA-IPPC fees and charges in England. It is the practice of Defra to consult affected industries and local authority associations as part of the annual review of the local authority charging schemes. It is proposed that the fees and charges for the two local air pollution control (LAPC/LAPPC) and local authority integrated pollution prevention and control (LA-IPPC) regimes for 2007/8 are increased by between 2.37% and 2.86%

over current levels for subsistence charges and by 2.11% over current levels for all other charges.

In addition to the above, it is proposed that all standard process application fees are increased by £1058 and all reduced fee application fees are increased to £201 for applications made after the due

date - i.e. in relation to installations operating without a permit.

Closing date for comments 5 January 2007

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/localauth-plantfees07-08/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2000 (THE PPC REGULATIONS)

The amendment to the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 relates to certain types of small Landfill Gas Engines.

It is proposed to remove from the list of activities, installations and mobile plant to which the Regulations apply, some landfill gas engines of between 3 - 50MW

(aggregated capacity), which are used to convert landfill gas produced by the biological degradation of waste in a landfill.

Closing date for comments 12 January 2007

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ppc-amendregs3/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT UPDATED UK NATIONAL PROGRAMME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL EMISSIONS CEILING DIRECTIVE 2001/81/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

The national programme sets out the UK Government and Devolved Administrations' plan for national ceilings for the emissions of four transboundary air pollutants which cause acidification, eutrophication and ground level ozone: sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds and ammonia. This national programme records the measures that are being taken in the UK to meet the obligations of the National Emission Ceilings Directive

(2001/81/EC). It is a report on the measures that are being taken, not a basis for new policy developments. The UK expects to meet the emission ceilings through existing measures. It replaces the report prepared in 2002 on the national strategy.

Closing date for comments 26 January 2007

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

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON KOI HERPESVIRUS (KHV): NOTIFICATION AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

It is proposed to make Koi herpesvirus disease notifiable in England and comments are invited on the type of disease control arrangements that might operate as a consequence of making the disease notifiable.

The new regulation would be made under section 13(1) of the Diseases of Fish Act 1937 (as amended).

The practical effect of this would be to:

- (a) place a legal obligation on any party to notify Defra (and/or its agents) of suspicion of the presence of KHV; and
- (b) give Ministers the powers to enable them to determine whether or not to designate waters as infected on confirmation of KHV disease and whether or not to apply movement restrictions in respect of those waters as a result.

Up until 2006 there had been only a small number of instances of disease outbreaks where KHV had been implicated as the cause of mortality of common and koi carp in managed fisheries. This summer, possibly as a result of good weather and corresponding high water temperatures, KHV disease has been confirmed in carp at a total of 23 fishery sites in England. Mortality due to KHV infection can be very high and this year some sites reported dead fish numbering in the thousands.

KHV disease primarily affects common and koi carp and it has been found to be widespread in some countries. It is temperature dependent, only expressing itself above 15°C and below 28°C. However, even within that temperature range clinical

signs of the disease may not occur for an assortment of reasons including good environmental or stock management conditions acting as a counter to the effects of temperature, and/or possibly higher resistance to the disease in some genetic strains of carp.

Like all herpes viruses, KHV can be latent within a host and difficult to identify using current testing techniques.

Closing date for comments 30 January 2007
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/khv-control/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON MEASURES TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS IN LARGE NON-ENERGY INTENSIVE BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

In the Energy Review, the Government committed to consult on measures to reduce carbon emissions in large non-energy intensive organisations by 1.2 million tonnes of carbon per year by 2020. The consultation identifies a range of options for achieving these emissions savings:

- The Energy Performance Commitment (EPC) proposal - a mandatory cap and trade proposal;
- A system of voluntary benchmarking and reporting;
- Longer-term changes to building regulations;
- Enhancing information provision and advice to business; and
- Industry-led agreements to reduce emissions;

In particular, the consultation invites views on two specific options:

- The Energy Performance Commitment (EPC) proposal – a mandatory cap and trade proposal;
- Voluntary Benchmarking and Reporting

The Government is seeking views on what combination of measures it should consider to deliver these carbon savings.

Closing date for comments 31 January 2007
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/carbon-emissions/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON REGISTRATION OF SPECIES LISTED ON SCHEDULE 4 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

Comment is invited on a review of the species listed on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The review makes a number of recommendations relating to additions and removals of particular species to and from the Schedule, as well as suggesting a number of options aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on bird keepers.

The consultation is being undertaken by Defra, the

Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly with the intention of arriving at a solution which will mean that bird keepers will have the same systems in place wherever they live.

Closing date for comments 16 February 2007
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/birdreg-schedule4/index.htm>]

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