



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

NUMBER 48
May 2009

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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 2009 AGM and Symposium



University of Nottingham, 1 and 2 July
Green But Safe

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has met at the University of Birmingham in December 2008, February 2009 and April 2009. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

ISTR Biosafety Accreditation Scheme

The implementation of the scheme continued with Dr Stuart Thompson, Mr Alan Kelly, Mr Simon Caidan and Ms Sharon Leach approved as course assessors.

Support to Regional Bio Groups

Following an enquiry about funding, consideration was given to what, if any, support should be given to these autonomous groups. It was decided to deal with requests on a case by case basis - further information was requested.

Finance

Problems continue with BACS payments of subscriptions - in some cases it is difficult to identify the member to which a payment relates. A procedure for dealing with late and non-payers was discussed.

Future events

July 2009, Green but Safe. The November 2009 symposia will use the established pattern of mainly non-bio topics on Day 1, carriage of dangerous goods regulations and new chemicals labelling, followed by a biosafety day with an allergies theme. Spring 2010, Skills Workshop – LEV, based on the latest HSE guidance. July 2010, New technologies/Synthetic biology.

Sponsorship/bursary scheme.

Approved in principle.

Executive Committee membership

It was agreed that the holders of non-elected functions, *Events Secretary, Membership Secretary and Bulletin Editor/Website*, should be co-opted annually in order to allow ordinary committee members without specific functions and to ensure a flow of fresh blood onto the committee.

Membership subscriptions

A procedure for dealing with non-payment of subscriptions was agreed and this and the arrangements for raising subscriptions to be included in an additional section to the web version of "Information for Prospective 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:

Ms H Alderton, Ms K Boers, Dr CJ Bradley, Mrs A Church, Dr TGE Davies, Mr E Demba, Mr MJ Elsdon, Mrs J Freeland, Mr M Haynes-Coote, Mr R Kumar, Mr J Manders, Mrs JA McConkey, Mr A Mehta, Ms SV Rush, Mr A Scott, Mr N Tidman and Ms LA Tilling.

Associate Members:

Mr M Akinfe, Mrs KS Grabara, Mr L Fortune, Mr RC Lane, Mr A Kurdziel, Mr SW Richardson, Dr MS Rocchi and Mrs V Walshe

Upgrades to Member

Mrs GS Brain and Ms BA Gouldsbrough.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Executive Committee has added this new section to the information for prospective members page of the ISTR website [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/infpm.htm>] clarifying arrangements for collecting membership subscriptions and for dealing with non-payment of subscriptions.

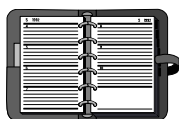
The first subscription payment is due when a person's application has been approved by the Executive Committee and will normally run to 31 July of the current subscription year. However, if an application for membership is approved at or after the spring Executive Committee meeting (normally in late February or early March) and before the AGM (late June/early July) then the subscription will run through to 31 July of the following subscription year.

Subscription invoices for the current subscription year (and any outstanding payments) will be circulated, preferably by email, in September of each year. Reminders on unpaid amounts will be circulated in

January/February of each year.

Any unpaid subscriptions at the end of the subscription year (taken as 31 July) will result in membership status being regarded as *subscription overdue*. Membership will continue, but a *subscription overdue* Member will be given due notice that failure to make the shortfall with the subscription payment at the next September invoice will result in the membership being cancelled. If membership receipts are brought up to date at this point then *subscription overdue* status will be lifted and the Member will be reinstated. If membership has been cancelled the Member must re-apply through the normal process.

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2009 AGM and Summer Symposium

The ISTR 2009 AGM and Summer Symposium are being held at the University of Nottingham on the 1 and 2 July.

The pattern for the day of the AGM, 1 July, will be as last year. The AGM will be preceded by a visit to Nottingham Castle and the caves beneath,



leaving the car park outside Hugh Stewart Hall at 2.00pm and returning from close to the Trip to Jerusalem pub at 4.30pm. The ISTR AGM will be held in the Library of Hugh Stewart Hall at 6.00pm. Dinner follows at 8.00pm in the Council room of the Trent Building.

The theme for the Symposium on the 2 July is "Green but safe". The need to meet environmental targets must not be at the expense of but be complementary to safety. Speakers will address the issues of greener buildings, facilities and science while still maintaining the existing standards of safety in our organisations. Topics will include green chemistry, green biology, VAV fume exhaust, greening old buildings, green waste management.

2009 Autumn Symposia

The venue for the 2009 Autumn Symposia is the Windmill Hotel and Conference Centre near Coventry on the 18 and 19 November. The principal topic on day 1 is The Carriage of Dangerous Goods, a guide, using workshops, through the labyrinthine requirements for both chemical and biological materials. There will also be a presentation on the new Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for chemicals labelling that is replacing CHIP. The theme for day 2 will be biosafety and the main topic allergies.

ISTR Skills Workshop March 2010

The topic will be local exhaust ventilation based on the latest guidance from the HSE, HSG258

2010 AGM and Summer Symposium

University of Bath 6 and 7 July 2010

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

ISTR Autumn Symposia, November 2008

The ISTR 2008 Autumn Symposia were held at the Windmill Hotel and Conference Centre near Coventry on 19 and 20 November. 61 delegates attended the Chemical Management Now symposium on the first day. An ISTR Biosafety Sub-Group symposium was held on the following day. *Copies of the presentations may be downloaded from the members' section of the ISTR website.*

CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT NOW



This account of the symposium was kindly provided by David Heath

Chemical health and safety management: a higher education perspective

David Kinnison, University of Southampton, Chair, Universities chemical Safety Forum

David Kinnison outlined the main risks of fire and explosion, manual handling, chemical and physical injury, electricity and DSE. Looking at fire he compared the traditional solvent still with column purification. While using a column eliminates the ignition risk, there are greater volumes of flammable solvents in the lab. One of the biggest lab. issues is waste disposal, both the need to segregate and also the cost involved, particularly with 'smalls' and unknowns.

Turning to security, universities are seen as a soft touch, with a itinerant population of students and the issues of drug manufacture and terrorism. There is only a limited amount we can do to contain the problem but the local police can be contacted if there are concerns about security measures.

Chemical Risk Assessment

Steve Richardson, University of Leeds

Steve Richardson described the management of risk assessment in the Chemistry Department at Leeds University. As risk assessments cover a wide range of activities, the laboratory staff carry out the assessments for undergraduates but post graduates are trained and undertake their own assessments. Assessments tend to concentrate on wet chemistry and COSHH but a whole range of activities outside the labs also need assessment such as air monitoring and off site research around the world.

REACH - After pre-registration: challenges and/or opportunities

Bonnie Okeke, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Bonnie Okeke explained the challenges and opportunities of REACH. Time is running out – pre-registration finishes on 1st December 2008. After that date only those materials registered, if manufactured in quantities greater than 1 ton can be used. This currently stands at about 1.6 million. The ECHA website lists all registered chemicals – use EC number CAS number of common name to search. If your chemicals are not there contact your supplier, who will need to know your use. For ubiquitous chemicals such as acetone, it is advised we say 'for

research and teaching purposes'.

The opportunities lie in niche markets, there is a EU wide exemption for scientific R&D chemicals and it will be easier to introduce new chemicals as the threshold is higher than for NONS.

University Lab Waste Management Audit

Dave Perry, Environment Agency

Dave Perry talked about the Storage and handling of chemical wastes, with lots of examples of bad practice, found in his career with the Environment Agency.

The principal legislation is the Environment Act 1990 together with the Hazardous Waste Regs 2005 (REACH will also cover environmental impact). He outlined our responsibilities as producers of waste together with the secondary producer (waste transfer station / waste contractor) and the landfill operator. We have a duty of care to store waste safely, <23,000 litres, <80 m³ solids and <50 m³ uncovered. It is vital to segregate wastes, based on chemical knowledge and risk assessment and conduct in house audits to make sure rules are enforced, in particular, keeping flammable waste separate from corrosives from water reactive from combustible packaging. Optimising segregation also leads to minimising waste disposal costs.

DERM project

Andrew Garrod, HSE

At short notice Andrew Garrod stepped in to give a colleagues' talk on DERM (Dermal Exposure Risk Management). He focussed on the nature of skin and the routes of exposure to chemicals. Low volatility chemicals penetrate the skin, high volatility damage the skin itself. He showed graphic examples of skin damage, including irritant and allergic dermatitis, described those workers in industries most at risk and the control measures employers should adopt in accordance with the COSHH regulations:

- avoiding contact wherever possible,
- using gloves where necessary and
- training staff to use PPE correctly and identify and skin problems at an early stage.

In particular he mentioned the move to water based products and the need to incorporate biocides in



Steve Richardson Andrew Garrod Bonnie Okeke Dr David Kinnison Dr David Veale Dave Perry

Disposable Gloves

Nick Gardner, Shield Scientific

Nick Gardner explained the complexities of the CE regulations as applied to disposable gloves. They are not all the same – there is a plethora of symbols on the boxes which need to be understood. They relate to standards (EN, BS, ISO) and testing the gloves have met.

Gloves registered under the Medical Devices directive (MDD) are designed to protect the patient. Those registered under the PPE directives are to protect the wearer. MDD gloves are often called examination, medical examination or medical gloves and the relevant standard is EN 455. PPE gloves fall into one of several categories. Cat1 are for janitorial use, not suitable for labs may have pinholes. Cat2 are to protect against physical agents, so are typically leather or cloth. Cat3 are 'intermediate design' have 4 numbers under the CE mark and are for 'irreversible / mortal' risks. Relevant standards are:

EN 420 – general requirements

EN 388 – mechanical resistance

EN 374.1 – Chemical splashes / biohazards and minimum glove length

EN 374.2.3 - chemical resistance / protection against viruses

There are 2 testing norms – 1994 and 2003. The 2003 norm is more stringent, differentiating between thin and thick gloves and requiring more permeation tests with a larger number of standard common chemicals. Also there are now 2 additional pictograms, denoting waterproof / low chemical protection and a breakthrough time of at least 30 minutes. If in doubt contact the glove manufacturer, many provide glove charts

Biological Safety for Chemists

Dr David Veale

David Veale ended the day with a whistle stop teach-in about Biological Safety for all the non biologists in the audience. Based on the survey that David conducted earlier this year, quite a number of Chemistry departments are engaged in biological work in some form, from micro-organisms to viruses to GM to tissue culture. COSHH is the principal legislation used to control use, requiring a risk assessment with the normal controls but also specific measures such as health surveillance where necessary. He described the hazard groups, the properties and effects of pathogens and the control measures adopted to contain and eliminate the agents.

ISTR Skills Development Workshop, March 2009

CREATING YOUR OWN VIDEO CLIPS FOR H&S TRAINING

12 Members enjoyed an excellent workshop learning how to make Health & Safety video clips, with amusing examples of 'how not to do it' the night before, followed by a full day learning how to set the

scene for both an interview and making a demonstration video.

Everyone had a chance to be the interviewer and interviewee in the 'hot seat'.....



In the afternoon the delegates moved to the laboratory to learn how to make a video 'at the fume cupboard'.



Everyone agreed this was one of our best workshops, with 12 budding Spielbergs out there now!

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.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED WASTE DUTY OF CARE CODE OF PRACTICE

In June 2008, Defra issued a consultation on the "Controls on the Handling, Transfer and Transport of Waste". As part of that consultation it proposed updating and reissuing the Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice. Responses to that consultation and other feedback from industry overwhelmingly supported that proposal and strongly suggested that the Code should be tailored to the specific role of the waste holder, so that wherever he or she is in the waste management chain, clear, practical guidance is available which enables them to discharge their responsibilities under the law. Defra want the revised Code to increase compliance with the duty, reduce inadvertent breaches and increase the quality of information

passed between holders.

This is not a consultation on the Duty of Care itself. Apart from some minor changes to the paperwork requirements which we plan to bring into effect later this year, Defra are making no substantive alterations to the Duty itself. This consultation concerns the revised Code of Practice and the extent to which it offers clear, fit for purpose and practical guidance to holders of waste.

Closing date for comments 24 July 2009

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

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING PROGRAMME: CONSULTATION ON GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

This joint Defra/ DECC/ Welsh Assembly Government consultation invites views on the structure and content

of several pieces of draft Government Guidance for the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

This guidance has been drafted or amended as part of the second phase of the Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP2) which is a Better Regulation initiative designed to reduce costs for operators and the regulator by cutting unnecessary red tape, while continuing to protect the environment and human health.

The documents are aimed at the Regulator, the regulated community and any others who may be interested. The Environment Agency will produce separate technical guidance for the Environmental Permitting Programme.

Consultation documents include:

- Core Guidance for the draft Environmental

- Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- Draft guidance for Radioactive Substance Regulation (RSR)
- Draft guidance for Water Discharge Activities
- Draft guidance for the Mining Waste Directive
- Draft guidance for the Batteries Directive

Closing date for comments 29 July 2009

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/env-permitting-guidance/index.htm>]

Please note that the **separate** consultation on the draft "Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010" closed on **11 May 2009**.

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



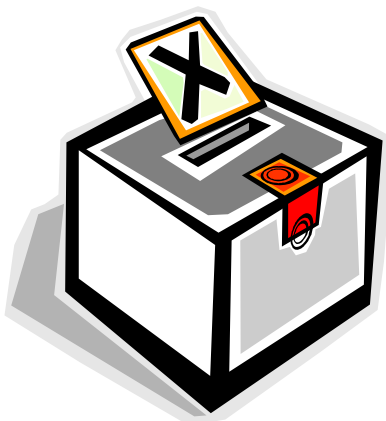
Bulletin

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/cmemb.htm>

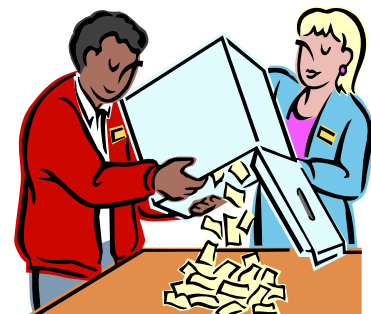
ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

Members' annual opportunity to be involved in the management of ISTR



There will be three vacancies on the Executive Committee to be filled.

If you are interested or know anyone who might be contact the ISTR secretary [istr-secretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk] for more information.



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