

Safetyline 45

H & S UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2004

We have recently been granted permission by HMSO to make the following current documents available on the University web service: -

- **Maximum Exposure Limits 2003 (MEL)**
- **Occupational Exposure Standards 2003 (OES)**
- **Approved list of Biological Agents (2004 version)**

These can be found in the Guidance section of the Safety Services web pages. They will be updated by Safety Services as new information becomes available and re-issued on the web. These should prove invaluable guides to those of you working with substances or Biological Agents. The references to "CHANs" in the tables indicates that the previous MEL or OES has been superseded by a "Chemical Hazard Action Notice" which can be found on <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/chindex.htm>

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*Printed versions of the recently introduced **Electrical Procedures for Academic Departments** are now available from Safety Services for those of you expected to work with electrical equipment as part of your role. Please contact your Departmental Safety Officer for copies of this document The revised Application Form for ESTA competence assessments will be available shortly on our web pages, it is currently being amended to request additional information to aid the assessment process.*

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Jail for alarm hoax student. An 18 year old student from Leyland who set off a fire alarm at Preston College has received a two-month jail sentence for his actions which resulted in a student in a wheelchair, suffering broken hands and severe bruising in an evacuation rush. The Preston Magistrate said: *"The offence was carried out in a fit of temper with little regard for the consequences. Your actions resulted in the injury to a disabled and vulnerable person. I have no other option than to give you a custodial sentence."* Lancashire Fire and Rescue's spokesman commented: *"This is an indication of the potential seriousness of setting off a fire alarm. The alarm also wastes our time when there could be a real fire elsewhere. We are glad that the judiciary has recognised the importance of this issue."*

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**Asbestos facts** - The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work have produced the following - <http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/factsheets/51/en/index.htm>

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The PAT testers have come across a few **Honeywell Convector Heaters** (model No. H2822E) on which the feet were not secured properly and became detached. In such circumstances the heater could fall over and overheat due to inadequate ground clearance and ventilation. If you have electrical equipment, like heaters, in your workplace that need to be assembled before use, please ensure that they are assembled properly and periodically check that fixings remain secure.

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**Fire Blankets** can be purchased from Safety Services for £12.00 each.

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We apologise for the fact that there will be a slight delay updating the **Fire Training records for August**. The names of those who have successfully completed the on-line training will be added in early September.

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**Reminder** - *electrical integrity testing of portable electrical equipment is a legal and University requirement to ensure that the equipment we hold and use is safe. Frequency of testing varies according to the type of equipment and the environment in which it is used. Untested equipment should not be used, although this is not always practicable with new equipment. Older untested equipment should never be used because of possible damage or deterioration to the electrical insulation. Get it tested before you use it!*

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Emergency Contact Register contact details. Please do send your revised departmental contact information to us as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. Many thanks.