

Safetyline 46

H & S UPDATE OCTOBER 2004

Disabled toilets have been installed in many of our buildings recently, and all have red alarm pull cords in them which activate red lights immediately outside each toilet indicating that the occupant needs help. If, when passing a disabled toilet, you notice that an alarm light is activated and the door is locked, please knock on the door to try to get a response from the occupant. Also contact the Control Room (on Extn. 4444) to tell them about the problem. Tell Control exactly where the toilet is, they will ask Security staff to attend to try to gain access to help the occupant. Signs are being affixed by the alarm lights at disabled toilets to emphasise this message.

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*With more and more people **travelling abroad** for work purposes, it's essential that those required to travel are provided with the best information possible about the risks they are exposed to. Always check the FCO website for the latest information about countries you intend to visit, but also check with your GP about diseases prevalent in those countries. A recent Safety & Health Practitioner article looks at some of the risks that should be considered, including travelling around in other countries. If you would like a copy of the article, please contact us on [safety@sheffield](mailto:safety@sheffield) or on Ext 26198. Also see the guidance posted on our web site.*

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Sample risk assessments for **NMR Spectrometers** up to 600MHz, and for 800MHz are now available on the Safety Services web pages in the risk assessment section.

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*Safety Services have been told that some departments are being advised against the use of **cable protection trunking** to cover trailing cables. This advice has **not** come from Safety Services. Avoiding trailing cables in the first instance by careful routing and thoughtful positioning of equipment, is the ideal remedy. However, if, for whatever reason, cables have to be routed across a walkway, then it will considerably reduce the potential tripping hazard if cable protection trunking is used. Departments should make their own provision for this.*

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Departments working with micro-organisms & other biological agents (see ACDP's 'The Approved List of Biological Agents' in Safety Services "Guidance") are reminded that the work must be risk assessed under the CoSHH Regulations 2002, as do hazardous substances. One department in the University has already been inspected by the HSE under these Regulations and others may soon follow. If the work falls within an authorised genetic modification project, then the risk assessment produced for that work will also serve as a CoSHH assessment.

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*The **Medical Devices Agency** are the principal agency in the UK for issuing warnings about suspected or established defects relating to medical and patient equipment used in hospitals. The attached web site links to the MDA page on which current and previous warnings can be found. [www.medical-devices.gov.uk/mda/mdawebsitev2.nsf/webvwMDASafetyWarnings](http://www.medical-devices.gov.uk/mda/mdawebsitev2.nsf/webvwMDASafetyWarnings)*

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Safety Services circulars will in future be sent as straight e-mails (no attachments), or a PDF version will be posted on our web site and the e-mail to key contacts will contain the relevant URL (web address) for quick access. For example, letters normally attached to e-mails advising on dates for various training courses will be posted on our web site in the "Training" section and the relevant URL e-mailed to contacts. The information can also be accessed by entering our web pages, clicking on "Training", then clicking the button in the left hand margin labelled "Course Bookings". This will open a list of letters (in PDF), when available, advising on the dates for various training courses which can be printed off as necessary.

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*A non-University **VDU on-line training package** can be found at [www.vduhealthandsafety.org](http://www.vduhealthandsafety.org) which may be of interest. Apparently it's quite good as a supplement to normal training.*

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Fire Drills at all University buildings and residences will be carried out between Monday 4th October and Friday 15th October.