

Safetyline 56

H & S UPDATE AUGUST 2005

*It is reported that sharps injuries appear to be on the increase. RoSPA suggest the following measures to reduce **needlestick injuries** (summarised): -*

- Use safer needles or needle-less IV connectors.
- Safe methods for passing sharp equipment e.g. in a tray or other "hands-free" method.
- Proper containers for sharps and that containers should be very near where required.
- Don't bend, recap or remove contaminated needles or sharps - discard immediately.
- Employers must provide readily available hand washing facilities.

~~~~~  
**Accessing full text British Standards.** Our licensed access route has been tightened up and there is now a new procedure to get access to full text British Standards. To start with you need to be set up to use the University's 'MUSE' portal. Instructions are then as follows:

- Log in to **Muse**, and on LHS select '**Research**'.
- Scroll down to **Library eResources** and select '**Databases**'
- Select '**Alphabetical Table**', then '**B**' and then '**British Standards**'
- At BSi Online page look on RHS and select '**Athens Login**'.

You are now in! Search as usual entering the standard number in the quick search box on LHS.

~~~~~  
*European consumer body BEUC recently expressed concerns about the safety of substances dispensed by indoor **air fresheners**. A legal decision by the Rechtbank Court in The Hague ruled that BEUC should cease to give the impression that air fresheners are unsafe in normal use.*

~~~~~  
HSE have produced an Information Sheet for "**Preventing slips and trips in kitchens and food services**". This can be downloaded free on <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cais6.pdf>

~~~~~  
*We have received reports about a **dangerous type of 5-way mains extension cables** sold under the brand name "Winstar". The principal faults identified are: - 1. Internal mains filters are prone to short-circuiting and catching fire, 2. Cables and switches are under-rated for 13 amps (the "design" load) and can overheat; 3. Plastic shutters on the live contacts fail open with a risk of electrocution should other metals touch the contact. Mains extension cables for work should only be purchased from the University's official suppliers.*

~~~~~  
The **Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005** came into force on 16<sup>th</sup> July, replacing the Special Waste Regulations 1996, and simplify procedures for tracking movements of hazardous waste by removing the need to pre-notify the Environment Agency about individual consignments. However they require: -

- Sites producing more than 200kg of hazardous waste per annum to be registered with EA
- No more mixing of different types of hazardous waste at producing sites
- Producers to maintain company registers of their hazardous wastes.

These Regulations have been issued at the same time as changes to the classification of hazardous wastes, which classify many more wastes (e.g. batteries and fluorescent tubes) as hazardous using the European Waste Catalogue as a guide. The changes will require improved internal segregation of wastes which means that organisations will need to train and inform staff to segregate hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. The Regulations also impose requirements to pre-treat wastes and to minimise the potential for pollution of the environment. Early indications are that these additional requirements will increase costs significantly for the disposal of solvent, clinical and chemical wastes.

~~~~~  
*At Registration 2005 **postgraduate students** will only be issued with copies of the abbreviated version of the Health and Safety Code of Practice, i.e. the version without the green section for science and engineering students. Departments requiring "full" versions for their postgraduates should request sufficient copies of the full version for their postgraduate intake from Safety Services. If possible, we would appreciate the return of the abbreviated versions. Thanks.*