

Safetyline 116

H & S UPDATE AUGUST 2010

New figures released by HSE reveal that the **number of people killed at work in Britain fell last year to a record low**. 151 workers were killed between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 compared to 178 deaths in the previous year and an average number over the last 5 years of 220 deaths per year. Construction and agriculture still account for most fatalities. Lack of proper management of vehicles at workplaces continues to be major cause of injury and death according to HSE. Since 1998/99 there have been an average of 61 fatalities each year, as well as over 2,150 major injuries and over 4,270 injuries requiring the injured person to be off work for more than three days.

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*A **new initiative to reduce noise in the workplace** has been launched by HSE which aims to encourage manufacturers to make quieter machinery and businesses to start buying and using it in order to tackle the issue of work-related hearing problems. According to HSE 170,000 people in the UK suffer deafness, tinnitus or other ear condition as a result of excessive exposure to noise at work. The initiative is about exploring ideas and sharing information about what can be done to reduce the risks. HSE have released an audio/visual demonstration of noise induced hearing loss on their web site. "Noise induced hearing loss" is irreversible damage to the ears caused by exposure to high levels of noise. This recording demonstrates how hearing is gradually lost over a working life. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/demonstration.htm?ebul=noise/july10&cr=4>*

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The PAT Service are coming across **substandard IEC cables** (3-pin plug at one end and a small 3-pin socket at the other end) on kettles and other household-type items. The cable thickness is too thin for the power requirement and are failing the load test. The identifier for the substandard cables can be found on the pin side of the plug-head and are marked "LINETEK BS1363/ALP-60L". If you come across these IEC cables please bring them to the attention of your line manager as they should be replaced by a better quality cable.

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***First Aid organisations are urging more people to learn first aid** claiming more than 150,000 lives could be saved each year if more people had the right first aid skills. The campaign highlights that thousands of people are dying each year in situations where first aid could have made the difference, including people who choke to death and asphyxiate. The University is able to train staff in first aid techniques either in-house, or for those who would prefer, using external training providers. Speak to your DSO who has the information on courses which will be available over the next few weeks.*

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Please remember that when you have new starters in your Department that you should include the **online Health and Safety Induction Training course** as part of your induction programme. This helps introduce the new starter to the standards of health and safety behaviours the University expects. Also, if the new starter is expected to use a computer in their role, then do remember to ask them to undertake the online DSE training package too to help them set up their workstation correctly and to identify any concerns they may have about their workstation or the way they work. Both courses are available from Safety Services home page by clicking on "Online Training" in the left hand column; all the instructions for accessing the two courses are on the relevant web pages. All departments should have someone to administer these two courses so you can check that they have been done. If you don't yet have an Administrator, let us know. Over the next few months staff will be relocated to new buildings and will also need to optimise their new workstations, and the online DSE training course can help achieve this.

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Introduction of new Regulations for **biological agents and genetically modified organisms** is likely to be delayed until next April at the earliest according to a report heard recently