

# Safetyline 108

H & S UPDATE DECEMBER 2009

Two new “safety presentations” have been added to the Safety Services web site; one titled “**Introduction to CoSHH**” and the other “**Understanding MSDS’s**” (Material Safety Data Sheets - which you should receive with all the substances you purchase). These can be found in the “Download” box at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/safety/chem>.

~~~~~  
*Most of you will now be aware that an online Out of Hours course has been introduced to replace the practical training session for existing staff wishing to renew their out of hours authorisations and for all postgraduate students required to work outside normal working hours. This new course joins the other two online courses available (General Health & Safety Induction for New Starters and Fire Training) so a new “Button” has been created in the left hand side of our Homepage titled “**Online Training**” from which ALL online training packages will be available. See <http://www.shef.ac.uk/safety/online-training>. Feedback on the OOH course is welcome.*

~~~~~  
A new icon has been added to the Safety Services Home Page for the **PAT Service** which replaces the previous icon for the General Health & Safety Induction Course.

~~~~~  
*We’ve received a report about the potential serious consequences of **storing flammable substances in laboratory fridges** which were not designed for this purpose. The report is on our website in the electrical section of the Guidance pages, or can be accessed by clicking on the following URL: -<http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/guidance/Fridges%202008%20Beacon.pdf>*

~~~~~  
During the recent **fire drills**, we came across several people who continued to work as they had not heard the fire alarm because they were wearing an mp3 player or iPod which masked the fire alarm. In view of the possible consequences of failing to hear fire alarms, we recommend that these devices are not worn when working inside buildings.

~~~~~  
An updated version of the **Legionella Policy** can be found on Safety Services website in the Legionella Issues section, or at: <http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/legionella/Policy%20Nov2009.pdf>

~~~~~  
Visual Inspection courses (for portable electrical equipment) will be held early in the New Year. If you wish to attend a course, email Bev Gouldsbrough on [b.gouldsbrough@Sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:b.gouldsbrough@Sheffield.ac.uk).

~~~~~  
*The Health and Safety Committee ratified proposed **new arrangements for first aid cover for Departments** at the last meeting. It means that low-risk Departments will, in future, only require two “Emergency First Aid at Work” (EFAW) certificated persons for up to 100 employees in each workplace, or building. An additional Emergency First Aider will be required for every additional 50 employees at each site. The new 1-day EFAW certificate significantly reduces the time commitment required to be compliant with the 1981 Regulation for low-risk departments. The requirements for higher risk Departments is similar to that previously in place, except that the First Aid at Work certificate course is being reduced to 3 days from the current 4 or 5. Certificates last 3 years for FAW and EFAW courses but HSE strongly recommend annual refresher training.*

~~~~~  
Information on common **Laboratory Disinfectants**, their properties and against which organisms they are most effective, is now available on the Safety Services website in the Biohazards section or click on <http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/Biohazards/Laboratory%20Disinfectants.pdf>

~~~~~  
*Happy Christmas to you all from all of us at Safety Services*

*Safety Services - working to make your University safer*