

Safetyline 102

H & S UPDATE JUNE 2009

An updated version of the **University's Health and Safety Code of Practice**, incorporating the Health and Safety Policy, has been approved by the University Council and has been uploaded onto the University's web site. The revised version reflects the new management arrangements in the University; includes changes to practices in the University, and has new sections on Student Placements and Field Trips. The new Code of Practice can be found at: <http://www.safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/cop/Full%20Cop%20Revised%20Jan%202009.pdf>

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*A revised **PAT Testing Policy** was ratified by the Health and Safety Committee at the May meeting. Concerns had been raised by the Departmental Managers Group that the Policy approved in February obliged Departments to ensure aspects of electrical safety by Contractors which were beyond their means; that the Table in the Policy did not include the Visual Inspection requirement and that insufficient account had been taken of risk assessment in the determination of testing frequencies. The Working Group reconvened to review these points and revised the policy slightly to address these concerns taking full account of current HSE guidance, for submission to the Health and Safety Committee. In addition, the University's "Standard Terms and Conditions" provided with all Purchase Orders issued by SAP is to be amended to require those providing "services" to the University to comply with all legal requirements. The revised Policy can be found at: - <http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/guidance/PAT%20Policy.pdf>*

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You may have seen adverts or been contacted recently by suppliers of **cabinets for storage of flammables** saying that there have been "major changes on internal solvent storage". This is not true. Despite the advertising material suggesting otherwise, the traditional metal flammables cupboard with integral bunding continues to meet current requirements. The advertised cabinets certainly appear to be effective and well-built but are of a higher specification that needed.

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***REACH update** – as a "downstream user of substances", the University does not have direct legal obligations under REACH but we will need to respond to supplier's queries about how we use substances (if asked), so that the supplier can provide adequate advice on how to control risks; we also are required to apply the advice provided.*

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Restrictions on vehicle access to the Concourse came onto force on the 1st May in order to reduce the risks to pedestrians, staff and students alike, particularly during busy times of the day. A list of critical suppliers has been drawn up but even those vehicles are required to comply with strict speed restrictions and to minimise their stay, and also to recognise that at periods of heavy occupancy on the Concourse they may have to wait a few minutes to allow pedestrian density to reduce. For one-off situations where it may be necessary for vehicles to access the Concourse during the restricted period, it will be necessary for those departments requiring vehicle access to consult in advance with Room & Parking Services who will assess the need and where it is deemed necessary, to manage access to minimise risks; this may require vehicles to wait until the number of pedestrians on the Concourse reduces. During the restricted period, most vehicle drivers will be expected to park in the Arts Tower Car Park temporarily and to walk to their intended destination.

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*Exhausted **electrochemical sensors** from gas and oxygen deficiency monitoring equipment should be classified as "batteries" for the purposes of disposal.*

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An article on **driving posture** has been added to the Guidance section of the Safety Services webs site. Check <http://safety.dept.shef.ac.uk/guidance/DRIVING%20POSTURE.pdf>.