

CHEMISTRY BUILDING HEALTH and SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th June 2005 at 2:15 p.m. in room 7.27

In attendance: Prof. P. O'Brien (Chairman), Dr. E.M. Armstrong (Deputy Chairman), Dr. D.J. Smith (Secretary), Mr. J. Belcher, Prof. F.R. Livens, Mr. J. Friend, Dr. P. Quayle, Mr T. Graham, Mr. A. Sutherland and Ms. C. Davidge

Apologies

Ms. C. Arthurs

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th April 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in room 4.20 were passed without amendment.

Matters Arising

CD reported that in the code of practice re. religious dress, Health & Safety requirements came first although great sensitivity was needed.

Correspondence

A circular has been received from Helen Walsh re PPE needed in association with transilluminators. A letter was received from the President of the University written in response to an incident in another School where chlorinated and non-chlorinated waste was mixed and capped causing an explosion. Concern was raised about communications within predominately non-english speaking groups. The duty of supervision to the students was highlighted.

Flag for review next meeting

Chairman's Business

None.

Report from Faraday Building H&S Committee

The program for disposal of stocks of old chemicals from the stores is nearly complete and only items in current use are now stocked.

It was noted that producers of waste need to be registered and it was unclear if this would be on a School by School basis or if the University would be registered as an entity. It was concluded that we should make sure we were registered one way or another.

EMA/CD to coordinate and report to POB

Fire Alarms - still a work in progress and testing continues

Problems with falling masonry caused the closure of the main doors to the Faraday Building. POB contacted to authorise the reopening of the Main doors but had to refuse in the light of insufficient information.

Gas Leak

On the 10th June the contractors working on the new Teaching wing to the Brunswick Street building, ruptured a gas main not marked on the maps supplied to them. The School was evacuated. This evacuation went well although it must be stressed to staff and students that the muster point is beyond the Chisholm Building on the grassed area in front of the Engineering Building. People should not congregate in the area between the Chisholm Building and the School.

The main has been repaired but the gas supply to the building is still not fully operational due to the detection of an unrelated leak in the supply to the building.

EMA to circulate re. muster point

Evacuation Procedures

It is proposed that when the fire alarms are sounded the building should be evacuated on the first alarm and a team of trained evaluators should then assess the situation before contacting the Fire Brigade.

TG and EMA to review best practice and report back to next meeting

Area Safety Assistants

This proposes that each area/laboratory should have a single person responsible for Health & Safety and housekeeping as per the model adopted by OMIC on the first floor.

In order to encourage awareness of Health & Safety it was proposed to institute a School Safety Award with a prize of the order of £250 to encourage both staff and students to take a pride in their laboratories.

Shower Testing

This needs to be done weekly and could fall to the Area Safety Assistant (see above)

Risk and COSHH Assessment Training

Courses proposed for the 5th July and (probably) 14th or 15th July to familiarise research workers with the new COSHH and Risk assessment form and how to fill them out.

A general safety awareness course for Academic staff will be run in early September

EMA to coordinate

Arrangements for Inspections

1st Floor -DJS, EMA, CD - tba

An inspection of the security within Radiochemistry is to be arranged shortly

Dates of next meeting(s)

Monday 1st August 2005 at 2.15 p.m. in 4.20

A.O.B.

It was noted that there are no sounders inside the Solvent stores. Special types are needed and this is being looked into. In the meanwhile a manual alert system is to be put in place

EMA to coordinate

There being no other business the meeting closed at 15.05 p.m.