

CHEMISTRY BUILDING HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 21st June 2010

In Attendance: Prof. C. Whitehead (chair), Dr. E.M. Armstrong, Dr. N. Bryan, Mr. M. Bromfield, Mr. S. Holden (minutes), Mr. J. Robinson, Mr. T. Graham, Dr. M. Attfield, Dr. P. Quayle, Mr. A. Sutherland and Dr. D. Berrisford.

1. Apologies: Miss C. Davidge, Mr. G. Smith and Dr. T. Aspinall.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday April 19th in room 4.20.

Were agreed as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising.

Second gate for the basement moat is being chased up. (Contractors cabin is currently in that area).

Safety champions list has been produced. Who is exactly responsible for which room still to be sorted. EMA will see CW regarding this.

Emergency lighting installation is completed but will have to be re-examined as the emergency lights are currently on all the time.

The solvent stores gas suppression system work complete. Snags and training to follow.

4. Correspondence.

Enquiry received from Staff Training and development regarding the extent of the School's Health and Safety inductions.

An enquiry from the Health and Safety Executive regarding allegations made against the School (to which a reply has been sent).

From the University regarding health screening questionnaires for new entrants. There may be a need for an adapted form for undergraduates for handling CMR chemicals.

From Melanie Taylor regarding new chemicals classified under REACH. Mail has been sent to all staff.

5. Chair's Business.

Thanks were expressed for the contributions of David Crouch and Terry Graham, both of whom are leaving the University. (This leaves the position of post-doctoral representative vacant).

6. Retention of Health and Safety Data.

This issue is ongoing. There is a requirement to store paper and electronic copies for various lengths of time (up to 50 years). Nicky Snook is pursuing this.

In response to the recent complaint CD/MT are gathering COSHH information and will make recommendations.

CW suggested that an e-mail to responsible staff might be appropriate.

7. Latest Accidents/Incidents.

An explosion caused by condensation and subsequent expansion of Argon in sealed glassware. (Causing multiple minor lacerations to one person).

Chemical eye injury from THF ejected from a split hose on the solvent delivery system.

A postgraduate stabbed themselves with a syringe.

Contact with Tetra Butyl Ammonium Fluoride.

8. Latest Near Misses.

None reported.

9. Induction Process

EMA is concerned regarding some attendees low understanding of issues in the Health and Safety inductions and is proposing to introduce an extended, split programme. Group leaders have agreed to this and it is now a question of how often the programme can be run.

PQ queried as to whether any on-line training might be available – some e-learning programmes are used by postgraduates but none are health and safety related. The longer courses are anticipated to begin in September.

10. School Safety Advisors Report

The new fire alarm installation is complete (snags still to be done). Some technical staff have been trained on the panel indicator system.

11. Chemical Security (REVISE).

EMA

Requested that Academics and Administrative Staff pay close attention to student work regarding terrorism related matters.

Highlighted various general security concerns such as the wearing of ID and locking of laboratories.

Highlighted that certain chemicals should be locked away (e.g. acetone, hydrogen peroxide).

12. Pyridine Smell.

There is a frequent smell of pyridine in the ground floor of extension.

EMA has requested that Estates check out the drains and ventilation systems.

13. Inspections/Arrangements for inspections

Regime behind schedule. There will be more frequent inspections in the near future in order to catch up. No specific further actions are required; EMA will contact the relevant people.

14. Next Meeting

2nd August 2010.

11. Any Other Business.

DB was lecturing in the Alan Turing building when the fire alarm activated. There was no briefing/information available (room was centrally timetabled). EMA/TG will consider this information.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16.05.