

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: RECENT HSE UPDATES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of recent updates in Health and Safety information, advice and guidance.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 New regulations are expected to come into force on 1st October 2008 relating to the classification and labelling of hazardous chemicals. Most of the implications of the regulations will predominantly only concern those who manufacture or supply chemicals hazardous to health. However a significant change that will need to be brought to the attention of those using hazardous chemicals in the Authority (including general cleaning and household substances such as bleach) is the replacement of the orange box label with a black pictogram illustrating the appropriate hazard, and the introduction of two new hazard warning signs. Such warning labels must be clearly marked on all substances classified as hazardous to health and/or the environment. Illustrations of how currently used hazard warning symbols will change, and of the two new labels to be introduced are provided in the Appendix to this report for reference.
- 2.2 The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 [SI 2008/1765] are due to come into force on 1st October 2008, amending the current Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 [SI 2008/2573]. The amendments will remove the current requirement for an employer to retain a copy of its employers' liability insurance certificate for 40 years, and allow the requirement for the display of the current certificate of insurance to be satisfied if the certificate is made available in electronic form and is reasonably accessible to the relevant employees.
- 2.3 The Adventure Activities Licensing (Amendment) Regulations 2008 are also due to come into force on 1st October 2008. Only affecting the Authority with regards to Ynys Hywel Activity Centre, the amendment increases the fee payable on each application for a licence for the provision of facilities for adventure activities, or on the renewal of such a licence from £620 to £715.
- 2.4 On 18 July 2008 the Health and Safety (Offences) Bill successfully completed its Committee Stage in the House of Lords, and is subsequently expected to receive Royal Assent later this year. The Bill seeks to:-
- raise maximum fines that may be imposed by Magistrates for most health and safety offences;
 - make imprisonment of individuals an option for most offences (including employees who seriously fail in their duty to ensure their own health and safety and of others affected by their acts or omissions while at work);

- make most offences triable 'either way' (allowing defendants to elect for trial before Magistrates, or a jury in a Crown Court)

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

Author: Andrew Wigley, Health and Safety Officer Ext 4430
Consultees: Nigel Barnett, Director of Corporate Services
Gareth Hardacre, Head of People Management and Development
Councillor Allan Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Human Resources and
Constitutional Affairs
Emma Townsend, Health and Safety Manager