

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 12TH MAY 2010

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 The Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations 2010 come into force on 27th April 2010, setting minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from artificial optical radiation. Optical radiation includes ultraviolet radiation (UV), infrared radiation and lasers, and is a form of radiation that can interact with people in a way that varies according to the radiation wavelength.

The requirements of the new regulations are likely to have minimal impact upon the Authority, although may be relevant to some secondary schools that have radiation (including laser) sources.

Further information is available from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website:
www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/optical.htm

- 2.2 The HSE have launched a new downloadable tool to assist with the assessment of risk and reduce the likelihood of employees suffering from musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) of the upper limbs associated with repetitive tasks. The Assessment of Repetitive Tasks (ART) tool has been developed by the HSE and the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) and complements existing HSE guidance on upper limbs. The ART tool is available to download from www.hse.gov.uk/msd/uld/art

- 2.3 The HSE has published new guidance regarding the control of silica dust associated with kerb, paving and block cutting. Serious health effects, such as silicosis and lung cancer, can result from exposure to silica dust.

The guidance is available from the HSE website:
www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/61-2.htm

- 2.4 The Corporate Health and Safety pages of the Authority's intranet have undergone a recent major review and several improvements have subsequently been made. The pages provide access to all current health and safety policies, guidance on a wide range of topics, forms and examples of generic risk assessments, and is accessible to most Authority staff.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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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.

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