

To Safety Co-ordinators (for onward transmission to Heads of School/Directorates,
School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives)

From Dr Melanie Taylor, University Safety Advisor

Date 7th April 2006

Distribution Dr S A Robson, Prof P Heggs

Reference Circular 6/2006

New health and safety codes, legislation and guidance

The following codes are now available on the Health & Safety Services webpages A-Z at
<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance.htm> :

- **Drugs precursors** – this code summarises information originally sent out by the Registrar and Secretary last year when very short notice was given to universities about a new EU Regulation requiring a licence and appointment of a responsible person, before work with certain specified chemicals could continue. The specified chemicals could be misused to produce illegal drugs.
- **Storage and handling of cryogenic materials** – this covers topics ranging from risk assessments for using cryogenic materials in laboratories, how to quantify the risk of oxygen deficiency, transport of liquid nitrogen in lifts, risks of cold burns, checklists for facilities using and storing cryogenic materials, etc.
- **Maintenance of electrical equipment by schools and administrative directorates** – this document focuses on portable appliance testing (PAT) requirements and arrangements, and is an update of previous university advisory documents.

Clearly, the first two codes apply to schools to the extent that they use drugs precursor chemicals and cryogenic materials, although the electrical equipment code will be of relevance to all schools and administrative directorates.

New guidance on **slips and trips** has been posted on the A-Z listing, and will be of relevance to everyone. Although often seen as a source of amusement, slips and trips can result in very serious injuries which are no laughing matter to the injured person. Such injuries have occurred from accidents on our campus. As the new guidance makes clear, we all have a contribution to make.

On 6th April 2006, the **Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2006** come into effect. These update previous legal requirements and reduce the exposure action and limit values which trigger the need for specific control measures and management controls. A briefing note will shortly be available at <http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/TechnicalBriefings.htm> As a general rule of thumb, anyone working where they have to raise their voice to make themselves heard by colleagues standing 1m away (comparable to standing next to a bus with the engine running) will need to have their noise exposure assessed and risk assessment recorded. .

You are reminded that the new first aid at work code is also available (at <http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/firstaid.htm#COP>). The University First Aid Co-ordinator has now prepared a guidance sheet on the transport of ill or injured persons to hospitals. This is also available from the A-Z index under first aid.

Dr Melanie Taylor
University Safety Advisor