

To Deans, HoFAs, HOSs, Directors of Research Institutes

From Dr Melanie Taylor, Head of Safety Services

Date 16 October 2012

cc Mr W Spinks, Prof N Thakker, Dr D Barker, Dr S Robson, School Safety Advisors,
Safety Representatives

Reference Safety Circular 7/2012

Revised arrangements for working with carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic to reproduction (CMRs)

The University's procedure for working with CMRs has been revised and updated. The key changes are :

- (1) Extension of the substances covered
- (2) Changes to arrangements for fitness to work certification
- (3) New presentation in the form of a "chapter" of University-wide health & safety arrangements.

The recent (and ongoing) introduction of the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations is resulting in some differences in CMR classification by suppliers. The defining characteristics of the outgoing category 1 & 2 CMRs do not map exactly onto the new categories of 1A & 1B. After consultation with users, a recommendation to extend the University's control arrangements to categories 1A, 1B *and* 2 has been accepted. Although this brings over 100 new substances within its remit, most of these are not widely used.

There have been several reports that research work has started before the PI has received confirmation of the "fitness to work assessment" outcome for students working in their research groups . To date, original fitness to work certificates have been provided to students following an assessment by Occ Health professionals, with a request that they provide a copy to their PI. Following discussions between Occ Health staff, school safety personnel and the University Records Manager, the process has been changed as follows:

- Students will be asked to give informed consent for a copy of their fitness to work certificate to be sent to their PI

- Where consent is given, Occ Health will provide a copy directly to the PI
- The information provided to the student will emphasise the need for them to inform Occ Health of any changes to the nature of their research (eg new use of CMRs, or with skin or respiratory sensitisers) or change to their health status.

These changes were approved at the Safety, Health & Environment Committee on 5 Sept 2012 and should now be implemented.

The new chapter is at <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=13905>

Dr Melanie Taylor
Head of Safety Services

Melanie.taylor@manchester.ac.uk, 64004, or Safety Office, 180 Waterloo Place.