

To Deans, HoFAs, HOSs, Directors of Research Institutes

From Dr Melanie Taylor, Head of Safety Services;
Dr Steve Bidey, Head of Radiological Safety

Date 8 January 2013

cc Mr W Spinks, Prof N Thakker, Dr D Barker, Dr S Robson, Dr S Bidey, Dr L Green,
Ms K Sullivan, School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives

Reference Safety Circular 1/2013

UV protection – distribution of replacement Bollé visors

Please circulate to all groups using UV light sources, and ensure that requests for replacement visors are processed within your school/institute in accordance with the procedures outlined below. The replacements for the original Bollé 2001 visors are free of charge; replacements of other visors will be recharged.

Last year, a detailed investigation into a harmful exposure to UV radiation led to the University-wide withdrawal of Bollé 2001 visors as personal protective equipment (PPE) against ultra-violet light sources.

A replacement visor has now been sourced and tested. This replacement, the Bollé 'Sphere' visor, complies with the requirements of BS EN170:2002 and is appropriately CE marked. It provides satisfactory user protection at UV wavelengths between 254 and 365nm. This encompasses the UV wavelengths used in all transilluminators throughout the University.

In order to obtain a replacement visor, please follow the procedure on the attached sheet.

All users of UV-emitting sources should note that PPE must adequately protect *all* areas of skin that might be exposed to UV radiation. Areas of the skin that are often not adequately protected by visors or gloves include the underside of the chin and exposed areas of arms above the tops of gloves. In order to prevent inadvertent UV exposure of these areas, top-fastening laboratory coats with long sleeves and elasticated cuffs should be worn.

It is vital that all PPE issued for work with UV sources should be maintained in good condition; visors should therefore be regularly checked to ensure that they are clean and scratch-free, and replaced if surface damage is apparent.

Further advice regarding UV hazards and protection against them can be obtained from Katharine Sullivan in the University Radiation Safety Unit (ext 56982 or by email to katharine.sullivan@manchester.ac.uk). More general advice on the use and maintenance of PPE will be issued shortly, and may also be obtained from your University Safety Co-ordinator.

Dr Melanie Taylor
Head of Safety Services

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Procedure for the University-wide distribution of replacement Bollé 'Sphere' visors for UV protection

1. Following receipt by University Safety Services of the replacement Bollé 'Sphere' visors, three random samples have been subjected to non-destructive testing to ensure that the requirements of BS EN370: 2002 2C – 1,2 are met. This was undertaken by Radiological Safety Services in collaboration with Dr Donald Allan at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, on 7 Jan 2013. All visors in this batch will be engraved with a batch number, the date of receipt, and an individual identifying number.
2. All individuals who have previously used a Bollé 2001 visor for work with UV light sources may, in the first instance, contact the University's Technical Adviser in Non-Ionising Radiation Katharine Sullivan by e-mail at: katharine.sullivan@manchester.ac.uk with details of:-
 - (i) where the visor is intended to be used (University School, Building, Room No.);
 - (ii) details of the UV-emitting equipment it is going to be used with, and
 - (iii) who is responsible for the UV-emitting equipment. A new Bollé 'Sphere' visor will be issued to that person.

NB Some schools or institutes may ask for these requests to be collated by a school safety advisor or similar.

3. In response to each individual request, Katharine will issue a new Bollé 'Sphere' visor. The date of issue, the unique reference number and details of the UV equipment it is going to be used with, will all be entered into a new Non-Ionising equipment database, which records the details of all UV-emitting equipment and associated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) throughout the University.
4. Each Bollé 'Sphere' visor issued as described in (2) above will be assigned to a specific laboratory in which it is intended to be used; the individual responsible for the UV equipment in this laboratory will also assume responsibility for ensuring that the visor is appropriately used and maintained.
5. All visors will be subject to regular inspection by the Technical Adviser in Non-Ionising Radiation, and the findings, satisfactory or otherwise, will be recorded.

Procedure for replacing other visors that provide protection but which are not CE marked (eg UVP Oberon products)

1. It was agreed that these could continue to be used as an interim measure, pending procurement of a suitable University approved alternative that is CE marked.
2. After the distribution of the replacement Bolle visors, Katharine will undertake a routine inspection of all other UV visors and recommend a programme of replacement.
3. Users of these other types of visors can opt to make their own arrangements to obtain the Bolle Sphere visors eg through replacement of damaged or worn ppe. Orders should be placed through Katharine, who will record the details described above.