

2 April 2019, 1400 in the Cairo Seminar Room, Greenwich House.

Present: Mr J Hulme (Secretary and Acting Chair)
Mrs A Eccles, Mr M Elsdon, Dr K Tibbles, Dr L Torrente and Dr R Turner.

In attendance: Mrs S Boggie.

Apologies Received from: Ms S Alai, Dr M Glendenning, Professor E Reisner Dr J Skidmore,
Dr L Tiley and Dr M Vinnell.

1. Minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held 22 January 2019

Agreed and signed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 15.1 Use of personal mobiles phones in laboratories

Dr Turner noted this item and the committee confirmed local rules for use of phones and music devices, the need to be aware of surroundings and to ensure audibility of any alarms.

Minute 15.2 Oxygen depletion monitoring in cryogenic storage facilities

The Secretary has written to departments requesting information on all gas monitors and there had been a number of replies noting that this request had brought to departments attention issues relating to these monitors. Final responses are being received and going forward this will be an annual request.

Mr Elsdon noted that biomedical facilities are being contacted this week for information relating to their gas monitors.

Dr Tibbles noted that the BSO questionnaire was going to ask for details relating to oxygen monitors, which can be another way to check for oxygen monitors, however the Secretary's request was looking at all gas monitors.

ACTION: Secretary to report back to the next meeting.

3. Chairman's Items

The Acting-Chair noted a new out of hours signing-in system in the Department of Physics, via an access card reader in the entrance of the building or through the intranet (for those working late). The Committee confirmed the concept, and there are a number of other departments that will be introducing this system. There will be a short presentation of this system at the DSO Update in July.

4. Asbestos

The Secretary noted that this item would now be reported at the Sub-committee for Estate Safety, as would mercury relating to building issues, however mercury in equipment would be discussed at this Sub-committee.

5. Building Projects.

The list of current Major and Minor projects had been circulated and it was generally agreed that this list was helpful however projects would not normally be discussed unless specifically requested. To be reviewed.

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6. Chemical Inventories

The Secretary confirmed that the use of the inventory as an ongoing live system is being widely used and the feedback from users is good. Some departments have not, completed their adoption of the system and the secretary is collecting data on their progression. One advantage of the system is that the inventory can be set up for custom watch lists as well as the standard pre-programmed ones. ChemInventory is in the process of developing an electronic risk assessment system. If this seems useful, the secretary proposes to invite them to present this at a subsequent meeting.

7. Cryogen derived house gases

The information on and quality of schematic diagrams varies between departments. The one department that still has plastic pipework, which requires replacing, is still confirming the funding for this project. The most recent survey to convert both buildings has more than doubled since the last quote, current quote £210,000-290,000. The Department is currently operating an alternative cylinder system designed to minimise the risks. The School and this Sub-committee will contact the department asking for an update.

ACTION: Director of H&S to contact the department.

8. Hazardous Waste

The contractor has appointed a second full time operative to work in Cambridge which will greatly improve the service provision.

The School Safety Officers asked about waste for the new buildings that will soon be opening, it was noted that both the project and building names would be helpful to know which buildings were being discussed. Collections can be setup however the first collection will require a few days extra notice to allow the system to be updated, therefore it is recommended that these buildings ensure that the waste store is not full before the first request is made.

Project Bellatrix – Anne McLaren Building

Project Capella – Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre

Wellcome-MRC Building (CIMR and MRC MBU) (Titanic) renamed – Keith Peters Building

The ACCI renamed – the Patrick Sissons Building) collectively known as the

Project Gemma – Experimental Medicine Research Facility) Cambridge Clinical Research
Centre (CCRC)

ACTION: Mark Elsdon and Keff Tibbles to inform building users as appropriate.

9. Environmental Monitoring

Mercury tool box training is being presented to contractors for works at Chemistry, this training is provided by Mick Brennan. Dr Turner noted that this training would be helpful for him and the plumbers within the department, he will liaise with the DSO in Engineering (to get a good number of attendees) and contact the Safety Office. It was noted that this training is not provided on a regular basis as it is not a common issue.

Dust sampling was undertaken in the poultry housing area, there was a high level of dust and other air-borne particles, a report and recommendations provided to the department.

10. Occupational Health Report

No items to report.

11. Training

The full 3 hour chemical safety talk was provided at the Graduate training days in October 2018, ensured that nearly all the students had attended the necessary training and it has been agreed to provide this session again in October 2019.

12. Fire Safety

The majority of information on fires will be noted and discussed at the Sub-committee for Estate Safety, however solvent and/or chemical fires will still be brought to this meeting.

13. Accidents and Incidents

The committee noted a number of reports from the last meeting and highlighted the incidents relating to needle-stick injuries and solvent fires. Particularly noting the effectiveness of automatic fire suppression systems.

14. Any other Business.

14.1 HSE guidance on 3D printers (previously circulated 14 March)

The committee discussed the use of 3D printers and Dr Torrente's department has experience of this equipment. The Secretary agreed to survey departments (with the link to the HSE CoP). Secretary will report back to the next meeting with an outline for a leaflet / brief guidance.

ACTION: the Secretary to survey departments

14.2 Draft guidance on Laboratory infra structure; HSD085C (previously circulated 14 March)

The Secretary had received helpful comments from Ms Alai which will be incorporated, there were no further comments at the meeting except that it had some really useful information for laboratory set-up. This guidance document will go to CCFS.

14.3 Mild steel welding

The fumes from mild steel welding have been classified as carcinogenic, as this is the only change, an addendum will be made to Safety Office publication HSD021C.

14.4 Gas Monitors Survey

See Minute 3

14.5 Face fit testing of Face Masks

The Secretary confirmed that the Safety Office have 2 members of staff available to undertake face fit testing and there are 20 members of departmentally trained staff for potential chemical exposure. The trainer did note that guidance has changed and masks should be checked at least every 2 years (updated form 3-5 years), there will be both time and cost implications.

15. Proposed Dates for the next Academic Year

15 October 2019 (Jaffna), 21 January 2020 (Cairo), 31 March 2020 (Cairo), 1400 at Greenwich House.