



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Occupational Health and
Safety Service

memo

To Radiation Protection Supervisors, DSOs and Departmental Administrators
From David Plumb, Radiation Protection Adviser
Date 23 January 2014
Subject Update information
Our Ref S/RPSS/14/029/DP/em

RPS Update Meeting 2014

Confirmation is given that the RPS update meeting will be held on 26th March 2014 at the Cancer Research UK – Cambridge Institute (Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Hills Road). Invitations have recently been sent to all RPSs, and Heads of Departments have been informed of the meeting. If you require any specific topics to be discussed at the meeting, please contact David Plumb or Lisabeth Yates at the Safety Office.

Membership of the Association of University Radiation Protection Officers



Many of you will be aware of the AURPO - Website: <http://www.aurpo.org/>

Full membership of the Association is restricted to persons whose main occupation is in the advisory aspect of the use of radiations in higher education establishments and research institutes. However, Associate Membership of the Association can be made available to RPSs and similar who are involved in radiation protection and have an interest in extending their knowledge of the topic.

The Director of Health and Safety has now indicated that the Safety Office will be prepared to sponsor, *for one year*, Associate Membership of AURPO, for any University RPS who wishes to consider joining the Association. Benefits include quarterly newsletters, reduced fees for attending the annual AURPO conference, optional membership of a mail-base widely shared by radiation protection professionals in the higher education and research sectors, and access to a wide range of AURPO advisory publications. Annual membership of the Association currently costs £35, and this would be payable if an individual wished to continue membership beyond the one year sponsored period. Further details will be made available at the RPS update meeting in March – or in the meantime please contact David or Lisabeth for further details. This offer follows a similar, successful offer, recently made to University Biological Safety Officers in terms of sponsored membership of the ISTR (Institute of Safety in Technology and Research).

Inspections by the Environment Agency

Those who may be affected will already be aware that the EA will be inspecting, in early March 2014, against compliance with the EPR 2010 Regulations

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in some departments that hold sealed sources, and in some departments where unsealed sources are held. Departments that are included on the timetable for visits are being contacted directly. All departments should ensure that management systems are in place to ensure continued compliance with the relevant EPR Permit conditions – we advise that the most practical way of doing this is by use of the ‘matrix’ or ‘check-list’ (Safety Office website), to demonstrate local, departmental compliance.

Forthcoming ‘workshop’ sessions

Care, Maintenance and Use of Portable Radiation Monitoring Equipment – Wednesday 11th June 2014 at the Safety Office, 16 Mill Lane.

This short session (1.5 hours) is intended for RPSs or others, who have responsibility for carrying out check-monitoring in their departments, train other people to monitor, or organise the care and maintenance of monitors. The session consists of provision of information, discussion and practical demonstrations. In addition to the session on the 11th June, we can present this session in the form of a ‘road-show’ in your own Department – please contact David or Lisabeth for further information.

Two-Day RPS course 2014

This course will be held on 25th/26th JUNE 2014, once again at the Department of Pharmacology, to whom we express our thanks for assistance with organisation of this meeting – please note the earlier dates than in previous years.

This course is intended for persons who are about to become, or have recently become, Radiation Protection Supervisors. Additionally, if it is now four or five years since you completed this course, we advise that it *may be* beneficial for you to attend this year. If you are unsure whether re-attendance would be appropriate for your particular circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Safety Office or talk to your School Safety Officer. This course is restricted to 25 persons, so early application/reservation is required! Bookings can be made via the Safety Office website, course booking system.

Updated Publications

The publications relating to Best Available Techniques, the University ionising radiations Policy (*‘Management of Work with Ionising Radiations’*), and the manual *‘Working Safely with Unsealed Radioactive Sources’*, are currently under review. If you have any comments regarding these publications, including additional items that you would like included in them, please contact the radiation protection section at the Safety Office. Revision and some update of the unsealed source risk assessment procedure will be included in this review.

University Radiation Protection Sub-Committee

The Sub-committee for Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiations reports to the University Consultative Committee for Safety, which in turn reports to the Health and Safety Executive Committee.

Current membership of the Sub-committee is:

Dr B Blacklaws, Department of Veterinary Medicine (Chair)
Mr D R Plumb, Safety Office (Secretary)
Dr F Aigbirhio, WBIC
Mr M Elsdon, School of Biological Sciences
Mrs S Foreman, Estate Management
Dr P Grime, Occupational Health
Dr M Kalberer, Department of Chemistry
Mr A Moss, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy
Dr G Parks, Department of Engineering
Mrs M-J Robinson, Occupational Health
Prof S Russell, Department of Genetics
Dr K Tibbles, School of Clinical Medicine
Dr M Vinnell, Safety Office
Ms L Yates, Safety Office
Mr S Yates, EARRPS
Representative from Graduate Union
Representative from Joint Unions Safety Committee – shadow, (post vacant)