Safety Department Report – **May – August 2019**

**Audit and Inspections**

**Latest news**

This year’s audit schedule has morphed into a mixture of audits and inspections, with a number of ongoing audits including: the College’s liquid nitrogen COP; externally accessed hazardous materials stores (HAZMAT stores) on every campus; and the pedestrian/traffic interface at White City.

We are joining departments to participate in their existing inspection regimes, and where appropriate sharing and promoting best practice in both inspection and reporting skills. We are finding that the HAZMAT stores are often not labelled with any hazard warning signs, contact details, are sometimes unsecured, untidy and unloved. The intention is that there will be a College standard for this type of store.

**Changes in Legislation / New College Policies & Procedures**

**Amnesty of Unregistered Radioactive Holdings**

Following Provost Board approval, a College-wide amnesty of unregistered radioactive holdings will be implemented during June 2019. The need for an Amnesty has arisen following a number of recent incidents and growing pressure from regulators to demonstrate that the College exercises the necessary control of its radioactive holdings.

Action is to be communicated principally through Heads of Departments (HoDs) and will request that all laboratory and storage locations (including office spaces) be searched to confirm that no unregistered radioactive materials are being held within their areas of responsibility. For this to be carried out comprehensively, HoDs will be asked to task academic, technical and support staff to assist with the searches. Nil returns will be required.

In order to encourage full participation in the Amnesty and the identification of all further unregistered or suspect items, disposal costs and administration will be managed centrally. Owners wishing to retain items will be able to do so, following registration and the implementation of the necessary controls.

Further guidance will be issued to HoDs during May 2019.

**Health and Safety Memorandum of Understanding**

The updated MoU for Imperial College London and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Foundation Trust was signed in April 2019. The document and associated arrangements will be available in due course on the Safety Department’s webpages.

**Mild Steel Welding**

There is new scientific evidence from the International Agency for Research on Cancer that exposure to mild steel welding fume can cause lung cancer and possibly kidney cancer in humans. The Workplace Health Expert Committee has endorsed the reclassification of mild steel welding fume as a human carcinogen.

Consequences:

With immediate effect, there is a strengthening of HSE’s enforcement expectation for all welding fume, including mild steel welding; because general ventilation does not achieve the necessary control.

If you have any welding areas, please contact Matt Moderate to assess suitability of the controls in place.

**College Safety Forum**

**3 June 2019**

Join us for our College Safety Forum in the Upper Ground Lecture Theatre in the Business School on the South Kensington Campus from 1pm, to hear about all the latest topics keeping the Safety team occupied! You’ll be able to hear from the winners from the recent Provost’s Awards for Excellence in Safety (see below), as well as the latest from our colleagues in Occupational Health, and from the Radiation team regarding the eventful work just carried out on the Silwood Park Non-Nuclear Remediation Project. There’ll be lots more on top of all that, and in response to feedback from the last Forum, we will be having more opportunity for an open discussion, where topics and themes can be explored in more depth. There will be lunch and refreshments provided, so if you could please email d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk with the names of your attendees so that we can adequately cater for the meeting.

**Awards**

**Provost's Award for Excellence in Safety**

These awards were held on Thursday 11 April, with Ian Walmsley hosting his first awards since joining the College in 2018. The worthy winners were Eddie Benbow for the individual award, and the Faculty of Natural Sciences team along with Matt Moderate for the team award.

Eddie won for introducing a safer way of containing different gases required for combustion analysis, and for his ever-vigilant safety work in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. His professionalism and all-round commitment to his work were noted in the nomination for the award.

The FoNS team were recognised for their work throughout the transfer of the [Department of Chemistry](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/chemistry/) from Imperial’s South Kensington Campus to their new home in the [Molecular Sciences Research Hub](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/white-city-campus/research/molecular-sciences-hub/) (MSRH) on the [White City Campus](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/white-city-campus/). A huge amount of work went into the move, and the team ensured that the particular focus on safety management where chemicals are involved were not overlooked.

The news story on the awards can be seen on the Imperial College [website](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/190927/provost-celebrates-imperials-outstanding-health-safety/).

**Safety Department News**

**Staff News**

Darran Hickey has now joined us as the Safety Office Manager and can be found on the 4th floor of the Sherfield Building in the Safety Department, or at d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk.

Rebecca Pearson has reached the end of her secondment to the Safety Department as a Trainee Biological Safety Officer, and has decided to take up a position at Kings College London as Faculty Health and Safety Advisor. We would like to wish her the best of luck in her future role.

**Training** – the Safety Department hosted some Incident Investigation Training last year, and there is currently two further dates available for this, on Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 June at the South Kensington campus. If you would like to take advantage of this training, please email d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk for more information.

**Health and Safety Matters newsletter -** This publication is a joint initiative between the Safety Department and the Occupational Health Department; highlighting legislative changes, current topics of interest and upcoming issues that could be of interest to the College. We are pulling together the next edition, and welcome contributions or suggestions by contacting Alison Church (a.church@imperial.ac.uk), Newsletter Editor.