

Safety Matters

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Hazardous waste guidance

Following on from an Internal Audit of hazardous waste, H&S Services are completing a new Hazardous Waste Code of Practice, which will be available later this year.

The Code will cover hazardous waste disposed of via disposal contractors and to effluent, including discharge from lab sinks. It will apply to all Schools and Directorates, since hazardous waste includes everyday items such as electronic equipment, paints, inks, oil, sharps etc as well as hazardous chemicals.

Discussions are being held with Campus Services and the University waste contractor, Select, to check that the new CoP and the services provided by Select are aligned, particularly with regard to colour coding of different waste streams.

Once the Code has been approved (in the autumn term), Schools will need to check that their local systems for waste disposal match the new Code, and that staff and students understand what they have to do to comply.

Any AHSC who wishes to see and comment on the draft before publication should contact Moira Simpson.

Research grant applications

A new "Grant Hazard Identification Checklist" is being developed for the science Schools. This is designed to be completed by principal investigators prior to submitting grants for Head of School approval.

The checklist aims to highlight the H&S and Environment Agency implications of proposed projects so that they can be considered before commitments to new work streams are made. This follows several examples where grant applications have been submitted without proper consideration of the facilities, authorisations or training requirements necessary to complete the work successfully.

Radiation and P2P

Purchase to Pay has been modified to include a check for the ordering of radioactive material, with orders of all radioisotopes requiring H&SS approval.

This is to try to ensure that no such materials are bought without the explicit approval of Health and Safety Services, so that we can ensure that permit conditions and limits are not breached. The default setting is 'no' so this should not impact on those of you who clearly do not purchase such materials.

New chemical labelling

Did you know that the signs used to mark chemicals and other hazardous substances are changing? By 2015, new white, red and black signs will have replaced the orange ones with which we are currently familiar. And the risk and safety phrases that can be found on labelling and in Safety Data Sheets are also changing.

New European legislation - the [Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures](#) (CLP for short) introduces a new Global Harmonised System (GHS) for the classification and labelling of chemicals. In practice, for users, this means:

- xNew harmonised warning and precautionary statements for labels, which will replace the existing risk and safety phrases e.g. H 320 – Causes eye irritation, or P102 – Keep out of reach of children.

- xNew or redesigned