

IOSH update for POOSH meeting 8 December 2009

Consultation

- *Workers' memorial day* – IOSH submitted a response to the DWP consultation supporting the proposal for holding a memorial day. Suggestions included some sort of ceremony at Westminster and/or the wearing of coloured ribbons to mark the day. The IOSH response is available at www.iosh.co.uk/condocs
- *Preliminary consultation into the recommendations of the Gill Report on the 2004 ICL Plastics explosion, CD224* – we have submitted a response to the Health and Safety Executive, reiterating some of our recommendations to the ICL Inquiry chaired by Lord Gill. We also answered the questions on the Gill proposal to introduce some form of independent audit of risk assessments for LPG and more generally. The IOSH response is available at www.iosh.co.uk/condocs
- *ISO/CD 19011: management systems – guidelines for auditing management systems* – we have submitted a further response to the ISO Technical Committee, via the British Standards Institute, to this important standard that has been broadened to now cover the auditor competence of, among others, OSHMS auditors. The IOSH response is available at www.iosh.co.uk/condocs

Guidance

- *Working well: guidance on promoting health and wellbeing at work* – we will be formally 'launching' this guide at the 'Health & Wellbeing 09' event at the QEII Centre, London, where we are taking an exhibition stand.
- *Think about health and safety* – the latest in a series of guides for politicians, this one is aimed at local authority elected officials (Councillors) and has been distributed to the Council Leaders and Chief Executives of all local authorities.

IOSH guides are free to download from www.iosh.co.uk/techguide

HSE collaboration

- *Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)* – we attended the first RPE stakeholder meeting in Liverpool and were pleased to host a follow-up sub-group meeting on RPE 'wearability', at our Head Office in Wigston, Leicestershire.

- *Accreditation of H&S consultants* – as part of the HSE funded feasibility study, IOSH is about to conduct surveys of consultants and SMEs to help gauge the level of support / demand for an accreditation scheme.
- *LEV training* – IOSH has just concluded a survey to identify suitable IOSH members with training skills to receive and cascade free training on the latest LEV guidance and training materials developed by HSE.

IOSH research fund update

- *2009 call for bids* – our Research Committee has agreed to fund a further 2 research projects from Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre on supply chain influences on health and safety; and Reading University on building safely by design, utilising a virtual media to facilitate the process.
- *Research Programme* – we have had a good response in our recruitment for a part-time Research Programme Director and have shortlisted for interview on 15 December 2009.
- *Olympic Park project* – the development fund workshop generated 6 research project applications and 2 of them have been selected to go forward to the ‘feasibility / scoping’ study phase.

IOSH development fund update

- *Work with European accession countries* – IOSH provided funding to support the delivery of general health and safety and risk assessment training to trainee labour inspectors in 5 developing countries, mainly in Eastern Europe. This training was delivered with the support and collaboration of the ILO.

Lobbying activities

- One-to-one meetings with MPs and Peers continue.
- IOSH attended the 3 main party conferences and had exhibition stands and held fringe events at both the Labour and Conservative Party conferences, promoting the IOSH manifesto ‘Creating a healthier UK plc’.
- IOSH has recently spent 2 days in Brussels meeting with MEPs, Commission officials and the UKReps office, to discuss the applicability of the IOSH manifesto within a European context and to gauge support for it.

Other activities

- *Council for Work and Health* – IOSH is now a member of this Council and was pleased to attend for the first time on 27 October 2009, Chaired by Diana Kloss.
- *NICE* – IOSH attended a NICE workshop on possible future workplace guides; they were pleased to receive copies of our guides, 'A healthy return' and 'Working well'.
- *SHP / IOSH Awards* – this annual event was held on 21 October 2009 at the Park Lane Hilton hotel in London, with comedian Hugh Dennis as 'MC'. The IOSH Life-time Achievement Award was presented to Judith Donovan (HSE Board). There was also a special 'President's award' made to Rita Donaghy for her work on the Inquiry into the underlying causes of construction fatalities.
- *WANO* – the IOSH Hazardous Industries Group has developed a revised version of the WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) Peer Review process for certain safety critical activities. An IOSH visit to the WANO Paris Centre, involving the IOSH President, took place to discuss a possible collaboration agreement. IOSH has also been approached by the European Agency to look at ways in which this revised Peer Review process could be implemented across Europe.
- *IOSH website* – IOSH has recently launched its brand new website, providing a fresh look, improved navigability and greater functionality.

Richard Jones
Policy and Technical Director
8 December 2009