

## BOHS Report for POOSH meeting 8 October 2012

### News

#### **Royal Charter**

We are delighted to report that BOHS is hopeful of achieving Royal Charter status fairly soon. The achievement of this will be a significant step in the public recognition of Occupational Hygiene and the Society that champions this discipline and profession in the UK. We know that the expertise, standards, qualifications and competence of our members are world class and that the public benefit provided by them through the Society is of a significant order. The award of a Royal Charter will give a resounding affirmation of this to the wider world and provide a springboard for BOHS in its aspiration to raise awareness and visibility and gain influence and recognition. We are grateful to all of our supporters for their encouragement and recognition throughout this process.

The final step in the process is for HM The Queen to formally grant the Charter at a meeting of the Privy Council (which may happen in October). We don't have a Charter yet, but it's fair to say we are nearly there.

#### **60th anniversary**

2013 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of BOHS. Along with a range of activity we are planning throughout the year to celebrate this, we are producing a publication which outlines the key achievements of BOHS over the 60 years, with a particular focus on the public benefit of these achievements.

#### **IOHA 2015**

BOHS has been successful in its bid to host the 10th International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) International Scientific Conference in London. This conference and exhibition takes place 27-30 April 2015 at the Hilton London Metropole, and is expected to attract around 1000 leading occupational hygiene experts from around the world.

The IOHA is made up of 29 occupational hygiene organisations from around the world and through its members, aims to improve, promote and develop occupational hygiene worldwide. Its flagship international conference takes place every 2-3 years, with previous host nations including Malaysia, (2012) and Italy (2010).

The programme for London will include keynotes from a range of international speakers, workshop sessions and poster sessions. <http://www.ioha2015.org/>

### Publications

#### **Annals of Occupational Hygiene**

The next issue (**Vol 56 (8)**) is due to be published on-line on 15 October. Last year we published a commentary by Professors Heederik and Burdorf about the report for the Dutch Health Council on the risks of asbestos, which looked critically at the quality of the exposure information used in epidemiological studies, and concluded that studies of acceptable quality predicted risk to be much higher than usually assumed, especially for chrysotile. This issue includes a commentary criticising this approach, and a paper by the Dutch team in response. There are 8 other papers, including on approaches to setting exposure limits for allergens, a device that allows workers to monitor their noise exposure inside hearing protection, clogging of respirators by welding fume, and vibration from riveting hammers.

<http://annhyg.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/by/section>

## **Consultations**

### **CD241 - HSE consultation on proposals for the revision, consolidation or withdrawal of its Approved Codes of Practice (ACoPs).**

In summary, the BOHS response requests that BOHS is further consulted on the detail of the proposed changes to ACoPs and revisions to technical guidance, in particular those related to occupational hygiene. It also states that we are strongly opposed to the introduction of an arbitrary fixed length (32 pages) for ACoPs, which need to provide clear, accurate and concise advice, and could therefore require less or more than 32 pages. Also, whilst BOHS agrees with the proposal to revise this ACoP (L5) in combination with improvements to other HSE COSHH guidance for low risk industries, it does not agree with the HSE proposal to remove the guidance material that is provided in the Appendices to the ACoP, and only make it available separately on the HSE website instead. In particular it disagrees that the guidance on the 'Principles of good practice' should be moved to the HSE website only. These principles are very useful when occupational hygienists are explaining to non-hygienists what control measures are required, and even more importantly why they are needed. Their retention within the ACoP document is therefore important.

A copy of the official BOHS response can be found at: <http://www.bohs.org/cd241>

## **Major Conferences**

### **OH2013 – BOHS Annual Conference 23 – 25 April, Hilton Deansgate, Manchester, UK**

The BOHS Annual Conference is a major international conference promoting the science and practice of addressing health hazards in the workplace. The Conference brings together researchers, practitioners, regulators and business leaders from around the world to discuss issues - current and on the horizon - that affect health at work:

<http://www.bohs.org/events/annual-conference/>

**Call for papers is now open, closing October 12 2012.** To submit an abstract, go to:

<http://www.bohs.org/OH2013AbstractSubmissionForm/>

**Regional Events** – all open to non-BOHS members and some are free: <http://www.bohs.org/events/events-list/>

Here is a selection of forthcoming events. Follow the website link above for full details of them all.

- **North East Regional Meeting** – 27 September 2012, St Helen's Church Hall, Gateshead  
**Report Writing Guidance**  
For more information on to register your attendance visit: <http://www.bohs.org/NorthEast/RegionalMeeting-September/>
- **Midlands Regional Meeting** – 10 October 2012, Birmingham Medical Institute, Birmingham  
**Advances in Skin Surveillance**  
To book your place at this free regional meeting visit: <http://www.bohs.org/Midlands/SkinSurveillance/>
- **London Regional Meeting** – 24 October 2012, Society of Chemical Industry, London  
**Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and Asbestos in Soil - An Update**  
Register your attendance at: <http://www.bohs.org/London/OctoberMeeting/>
- **Scotland Regional Meeting** – 24 October 2012, Aberdeen (venue to be confirmed)  
**Asbestos Offshore**  
More information will be available shortly, reserve your place at: <http://www.bohs.org/Scotland/AsbestosOffshore/>
- **Scotland Regional Meeting** – 25 October 2012, Angus House, Angus  
**Expert Witness**

Register now at: <http://www.bohs.org/Scotland/ExpertWitness/>

- **[North West and North Wales Regional Meeting](#) – 31 October 2012, HSE, Bootle**  
**Report Writing and Presentation Workshop**  
Register your attendance at: <http://www.bohs.org/NorthWest/ReportWriting/>