Health & Safety Matters
December 2018

**Christmas Lights at Work**

If you are considering the use of Christmas lights at work over the festive season please ensure, wherever possible, that battery powered lights are used to eliminate the risk associated with trailing leads and to minimise the potential for ignition. Where there is no option but to use powered lights they should ideally be LED lights, and CE marked. All mains powered lights used at the University must be visually inspected and PAT tested before use, as should any extension leads used. The use of extension leads must be minimised and care should be taken not to create tripping hazards or to overload sockets.

For more information about Electrical Safety and PAT testing see ‘Electrical Safety’.

**Overseas Travel**

Did you know that the University’s Insurance Company has teamed up with WorldAware which can provide University staff and students with up-to-date SMS Travel Alerts relating to any travel destination(s) that they subscribe to? For more information on how to access WorldAware, access to the pre-travel risk assessment form, health and visa considerations, Insurance documentation, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office website and much more, go to our Travel & Health Overseas webpage.

**Christmas Housekeeping**

The staff within Health and Safety Services wishes everyone a Merry (and safe) Christmas.

Over the Christmas shut down, departments should be switching off equipment where possible and leaving the departments tidy and in a safe condition for everyone’s return in the New Year. Those who need to remain on campus should be reminded that working alone in high hazard spaces is not permitted during this time.

**Fines and Prosecutions**

Company fined after worker develops occupational asthma

A design and manufacturing company has been fined £12,000 and ordered to pay costs of over £6,000 after an employee carrying out soldering works was exposed to rosin-based solder flux fumes which led to the development of occupational asthma. More information on the prosecution can be found on HSE’s Press Release.

HSE’s Leaflet **INDG249 Controlling Health Risks from rosin (colophony) based solder fluxes** gives more information on how to protect your employees from the risk of ill health caused by rosin (colophony)-based solder flux fume at work. This can be found by visiting HSE’s Webpages on Asthma.

**Health and Safety Training**

If you have to carry out work involving the use of hazardous substances in a laboratory, did you know that a new **Chemical Assessment and Laboratory Safety Awareness Course** is to be launched soon and will be available using this link? A ‘**Good Laboratory Practice Guide**’ to support this training is already available.

**New Health and Safety Staff**

A new Health and Safety Officer has been appointed to support the Warwick Manufacturing Group: Steven Leemoon.

For more information about the Health and Safety Services staff see ‘**Meet the Team**’.

A new Water Hygiene Manager and a new Asbestos Manager have joined the Estates Compliance and Assurance team: Andrew Clews and Mark Henry respectively.

Useful links

- Report all incidents and near misses
- Health & Safety webpages
- Need advice on health & safety