



# In Touch

## EHS Newsletter February 2019

**WE PROVIDE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SERVICES TO ASSIST OUR CLIENTS THAT INCLUDE:**

- EHS Risk Assessments
- Occupational Hygiene Surveys
- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management
- System development and implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Construction EHS Services
- Construction H&S Files
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training



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OH0049



DoL Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by Lee Rands

### Water Cooler Talk

Dirty water coolers may be putting people's health at risk. In a recent environmental health survey 23 out of 87 samples from dispensers showed bacterial contamination. Coolers in leisure centres, offices, care homes and schools were among those to fail the tests. The survey showed nine out of the 52 samples from plumbed-in coolers and 14 out of the 35 from bottle-supplied coolers failed because of bacterial contamination. The types of bacteria found had the potential to cause illness among the frail or those who were already suffering ill-health.



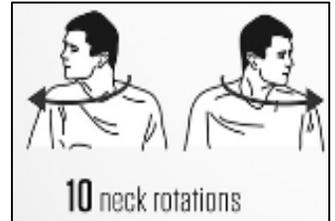
There are regulations for bottled water, which are applicable at the time of bottling but there is no legislation specifically for plumbed-in water coolers. These findings suggest that the cleanliness of water coolers has become a low priority for some organisations who have installed them. Organisations need to make sure coolers on their premises are cleaned and maintained regularly but they also need to get people to use them in such a way that they don't contaminate them for the next person. In 14 samples, scientists found coliforms, bacteria of soil and gut origin, which may indicate faecal contamination. Some of the bacteria types found suggested there had been cross contamination, with someone perhaps drinking directly from the tap or touching it with a saliva-tainted bottle. Other types of bacteria found suggested there was a problem with the cleaning and maintenance of the pipe work. It is recommended that the exterior of water coolers be cleaned at least once a week. Bottle-supplied machines should be cleaned internally every three months, while plumbed-in versions should have their filters changed every six months.

<http://www.justsafety.co.uk/category/blog-articles/health-warning-over-water-coolers/>

### SAFETECH OFFERS TESTING OF WATER FROM DISPENSERS AND DRINKING WATER STATIONS



**Work becoming a pain in the neck? Try these quick exercises to help relieve neck pain and tension.**



#### FEBRUARY

- 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> HIRA
- 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Basic Principles in Occupational Hygiene

#### MARCH

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hazardous Chemical Substances
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Incident Investigation
- 8<sup>th</sup> Introduction to the OHS Act
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> SHE Reps
- 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> ISO 45001 Introduction & Implementation
- 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> ISO 45001 Internal Auditor

#### APRIL

- 11<sup>th</sup> Fire Prevention
- 12<sup>th</sup> SHE Rep Refresher
- 15<sup>th</sup> Introduction to Environmental Legislation

## training



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The occurrence of occupational injuries and diseases associated with industrialization has declined drastically, due to developments in areas such as engineering controls, protective equipment, safer machinery/processes and adherence to regulations and labour inspections. However, the decline in occupational injuries and diseases has only been minimal, leading to increased interest in health and safety management systems. Although the introduction of these systems has further reduced occupational injuries and diseases, management systems are not effective in workplaces where there is a poor safety culture. The thinking and behaviors of people can contribute to accidents in an organization. Many organizations that have introduced new occupational health and safety management strategies have failed to show improved effectiveness because these strategies did not consider the impact of the organizational culture.

Investigations into major disasters such the Chernobyl meltdown and the Kings Cross fire in London revealed that breakdowns were not caused by the method of managing safety, but by problems with the "safety culture" of the organizations. An occupational safety and health management system is not effective unless it is accompanied by a positive safety culture in the workplace. We have learnt from these disasters that "it is essential to create a corporate atmosphere or culture in which safety is understood to be AND is accepted as the number one priority".

#### Five characteristics of a positive safety culture

1. Leadership is the highly visible commitment to safety by top management, a characteristic that is very important for providing a positive safety culture.
2. Safety should be clearly communicated as a value, not as a priority that can be traded off against cost and schedule.
3. Decentralized decision-making and accountability of key groups responsible for safety is important for creating and maintaining a positive safety culture.
4. All employees should learn about safety and contribute ideas on improved safety. A positive safety culture is achieved when employees learn from insight and intuition rather than incidents, and change their ways of thinking and acting by sharing their experiences and addressing shared problems.
5. A positive safety culture is one in which safety is a top priority and is integrated into every aspect of the company. In particular, among the five characteristics, the leadership of employers is the key to developing a positive safety culture.

### Who are the intended users of the ISO 45001 Standard?



As long as your organisation has people working on its behalf, or who may be affected by its activities, then using a systematic approach to managing health and safety will bring benefits to it. So the simple answer to that question is **ALL ORGANISATIONS.**

### How does ISO 45001 relate to other standards?

ISO 45001 follows the high-level structure approach that is being applied to other ISO management system standards such as ISO 9001 (quality) and ISO 14001 (environment). In developing the standard, consideration has been given to the content of other international and national standards, as well as to the International Labour Organisation's standards and conventions. Because their requirements are consistent with other standards, it will allow for a relatively easy migration from an existing OH&S management system standard to ISO 45001. It also allows for the alignment and integration of other ISO management system standards into their organisation's overall management processes.

**See our training calendar for details of ISO 45001 courses coming up at the end of March. Contact us for a quote or to book your place today!**