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In Touch

EHS Newsletter

September 2016

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
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training

HWSETA

HW592A1000508

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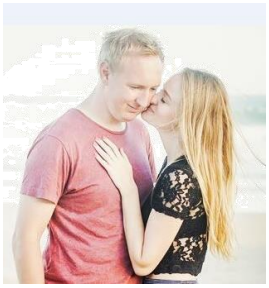
OH0049

DoL Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by Lee Rands

Getting Married

One of our staff members, Liam Oldham, will be tying the knot at the end of September. We wish him and his Fiancé, Sarah Everett, all the best for their special day and the years to come.



Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

LED FLOODLIGHTS

ECO FRIENDLY

The increase in global environmental awareness has created a demand for more energy efficient lighting solutions. However, a lot of people are unaware of new and upcoming technologies that can be used to help reduce carbon emissions. An example of this is LED lighting, which provides many environmental advantages.

Unlike fluorescent lamps, LEDs do not contain mercury, which is a hazardous element. They are 80% more efficient than traditional lighting, have a better quality of light distribution and a much longer life span.

What are some other advantages of using LED floodlights?

- They are impervious to temperature fluctuations and environmental conditions. Unlike some other lights, LEDs remain stable and functional even in freezing conditions.
- They are tough, durable and long lasting - saving money on maintenance and replacement costs.
- They are one of the safest lighting options, primarily due to the absence of heat emanation, which reduces the risk of electric and fire accidents.
- They do not radiate heat and therefore do not contribute to a rise in temperature - these lights are ideal for use in cold storage warehouses.

We would like to encourage our clients to implement a scheduled replacement programme, to progressively switch to LED floodlights.

http://www.sepco-solarlighting.com/blog/bid/145611/The-Advantages-of-LED-Lights-for-the-Environment

SEPTEMBER

8th	Fire Prevention
13th & 14th	HIRA *
20th	Introduction to Environmental Legislation
21st & 22nd	Incident Investigation **
27th	Introduction to OHS Act
28th & 29th	Advanced OHS Act *

OCTOBER

11th – 13th	SHE Reps *
14th	Construction Regulations
26th – 28th	Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene
31st	SHE Reps (Refresher)

Port Elizabeth

Public Courses

* HWSETA Accredited
** Unit Standard Aligned

Safetrain cc t/a Safetech is a SANAS Accredited Inspection Body, Nr. OH 0049. Refer to www.sanas.co.za for Directory Accredited Facilities, Inspection Bodies for schedule of accreditation.

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HEARING PROTECTION

People should wear hearing protection in areas where the 8 hour (noise rating level) exceeds 85 dB(A). These areas should be declared noise zones in terms of Regulation 3, Noise Induced Hearing Loss Regulations, Occupational Health & Safety Act 85 of 1993.

Where noise zones have been identified:

- The employer must first attempt to reduce the level to below 85 dB(A) where possible.
- Demarcate / maintain the noise zone boundaries.
- Prohibit any person entering the noise zone without wearing hearing protectors.
- Issue hearing protectors free of charge.
- Limit exposure time where attenuation of the ear protection does not reduce the level below 85dB (A).
- Audiometric testing of personnel as per SANS 10083-2013.
- Records should be maintained/kept 40 years.
- Results of the survey must be discussed at the Health and Safety Committee meeting.
- Employees working in noise zones must be trained as per the Noise Induced Hearing Loss Regulations of the OHS Act.

If hearing protection is required, then a complete hearing conservation program should be instituted, which includes:

■ noise assessment ■ hearing protector selection ■ employee education & training ■ audiometric testing ■ maintenance inspection, record keeping and program evaluation

AIR MONITORING IN THE PLASTIC INDUSTRY

There are numerous types of plastics used throughout industry, in a range of applications. They are generally based on polymers, which are large strands based on multiple units of small molecules. The main point of concern regarding work in 'plastic environments' is exposure to by-products released during the manufacturing / processing of plastics (fumes released during heat treatment).

When plastic pellets, granules and powders are heated through processing, plastic fumes can be produced, which include respiratory sensitisers, irritants and carcinogens being released into the working environment. Effects may include severe irritation to the nose, lungs and eyes. The effects of long term exposure can be irreversible. Toxic gases emitted by burning plastic materials like dioxins and furans may also cause cancer, impotence, asthma and a myriad of other detrimental effects to human beings.

When carrying out a survey, testing is conducted for the by-products, rather than generic plastic fumes. The production of plastic fumes is affected by the material and the conditions under which the material is being processed, the maintenance level of the machine and the level of control of temperature.

- Obtain MSDS's for each material and review annually.
- Review and update procedures based on updates to the MSDS.
- Ensure Operators are adequately trained.
- Check that machine alarms and cut-outs are functioning correctly.
- Ensure machines are kept clean and in a good working order.
- Ensure LEV extraction systems are tested and serviced on an annual basis (minimum).
- Carry out regular air monitoring, to determine employee exposure.
- Identify and mark all virgin and regrind materials clearly, to avoid the incorrect material/grade being used.
- Check for visual signs of damage to thermocouples and leads. Procedures should be in place for regular inspection.