

Health and Safety

MJ De,Maine

The Institute is committed to the provision of a safe and effective workplace and the promotion of a culture of safe working. The Safety Co-ordinator presents regular reports to the Institute's Governing Body and Senior Management Group, and a member of the Governing Body is responsible for maintaining regular contact with Institute staff in this area.

Staff regularly reviewed all working areas and appropriate operating procedures are drawn up to ensure safe working practices. It is intended that these procedures will be integrated into the proposed development of the ISO 9001 quality accreditation system.

Regular surveys are undertaken by the Institute in conjunction with the other Scottish Institutes and the BBSRC, and the SCRI Health & Safety Committee which is made up of staff and Union representatives is charged with ensuring that the appropriate Health and Safety policies are implemented and legislation is adhered to.

Surveys are also undertaken by external bodies and the improvements in fire safety, which were recommended by Tayside Fire Brigade and carried out over the last five years, have now been completed. The recommendations were made as a result of two surveys by the Brigade from the time when the Institute ceased to be covered by Crown Immunity with regard to the Fire Regulations. These have included the installation of extra fire doors, ensuring that safe paths out of buildings are adequate, the improvement of the emergency lighting system and the carrying out of fire risk assessments. In addition the fire detection and alarm systems have been radically upgraded so that the fire alarm is now raised by means of automated voice announcements over the tannoy system. In addition, the newly installed door access security system is fully integrated with the fire alarm system so that it is now possible to obtain accurate listings at any time of the occupants of a building where a fire alarm has been

triggered. The system works by means of swipe cards individually programmed for each member of staff, which are presented to a card-reader at the door of each building. A computer printout can then be generated as soon as the fire alarm is triggered for a building.

A Health and Safety survey was carried out by our insurers and they recommended improvements in machinery guarding, the bunding of fuel tanks, minor repairs to some fire doors and refresher training of staff in the erection of scaffolding platforms. All the recommendations have been complied with or are in progress.

Training in fire safety for users of laminar flow cabinets has continued. This training appears to have reduced the occurrence of fire-related incidents in general and in the last nineteen months there has been only one such incident, where smoke was generated by a hot plate that had been left on.

Douglas Watt, Company Secretary, was appointed as Chairman of the SCRI Health, Safety and Welfare Committee, vice Professor Wayne Powell. Xm Services was appointed as occupational health adviser to the Institute, vice Dr Ann Simpson. Dr David Hewitt of the University of Dundee was appointed as Radiation Protection Adviser vice Dr Jock Forrest who has now retired. The Committee recorded its thanks to Professor Powell, Dr Simpson and Dr Forrest for their services. Six new first-aiders were trained to HSE standard by our in-house HSE-approved trainers and refresher training was held for six qualified first-aiders.

There was one RIDDOR-reportable incident this year in which a member of staff fell on an internal staircase and tore a ligament in her leg resulting in an absence from work of more than three days.