



Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association

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Newsletter

September 2010

BHSEA Member hits the headlines!



L to R Back: Apprentices Sam Moseley, Jack Harris, Jack Caton, Josh Ellis, Liam Chadwick, Owen Lloyd and Jack Farnell.
 Front: ex-Apprentice Ravi Kumar, now pipe-layer, and director, John Butler

Earlier this month, BHSEA Member, McPhillips (Wellington), Ltd., hit the BBC TV News throughout the day with their good news about setting on seven new apprentices. This is part of their investment in the future of the building industry, despite the economic downturn. **Director John Butler** said, “The sky’s the limit” for these 16 and 17 year-olds, who will receive some of the best training in the UK Construction Industry.

The firm suspended its apprenticeship scheme, two years ago, because of the economic downturn, for the first time in its 14-year history. During that time, almost 20 percent of the company’s 240 workforce have all gone through apprentice training, with one becoming an engineer and others becoming highly qualified tradesmen and site foremen.

This year, the company was voted “Shropshire’s Company of the year”, in the Chamber of Commerce Award. contd./.....

Despite an uncertain future for the building industry, John said, McPhillips has taken the steps to continue investing in their workforce. It has been a tough winter for everyone but we look to continue with optimism for the future. We have managed throughout this economic downturn with a lot of hard work from all our staff.”

He also urged other companies to take on young people to give them hope for the future and to help benefit the Shropshire community. “If nobody takes youngsters on, what will become of them? This is for the benefit of the community,” he said.

The latest apprentice intake, which left school this Summer, are attending McPhillips’s own training department at their Telford HQ, in readiness for a new two year block release course in construction, which starts in October at Shrewsbury College where they will study one week a month. They will also work part-time on some of the McPhillips construction projects in Shropshire, Wales and across the Midlands including the Sutton Hill regeneration site, Roden Dogs Trust, a housing project in Muxton, a Solihull skate park, and on drainage contracts for Severn Trent in Wales.

The apprentices will learn a wide variety of construction skills including how to lay drainage, concrete, highway works, health and safety and how to work with electricity. They will receive a Diploma and a National Vocational Qualification in Construction Operations which includes key skills in maths and English.

One of McPhillips’s first apprentices is Matt Lowerson (30), who joined the firm after leaving school at 16 and is working his way towards being a McPhillips site foreman. Said Matt, “You can’t do any better in the construction industry than completing an apprenticeship with McPhillips. They teach you everything you need and more to ensure you are one of the best skilled and qualified construction workers on any site in the UK.”

Monthly Meeting 13th September 2010

The Chairman, Ed Friend, welcomed members and the following guests to the meeting: -

- Michelle Cresswell, Insight
- Lizz Fields-Pattinson, John Ormond Management Consultants
- Mike Cleverley, Deb Ltd.
- Paul Hall, West Midlands Police
- Steve Youngman, HSE Construction Group

The Secretary then read out apologies for absence from Mark Hoare, Gerry Mulholland, Gordon Self and George Allcock. He also reminded members about the forthcoming WWT Safety and Health Awareness Days on work at Height in Coventry and Walsall, on 21st and 28th October, respectively.

The Chairman went on to congratulate one of the members, Steve Parton, of Axa Insurance, for being granted the title of Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute (FCII). He was one of about 50 people to receive this title each year and follows on his success last year in gaining the NEBOSH Diploma in Safety and Health. He is now working on his IPD skills portfolio to attain CMIOSH status.

Presentation: "The New CHIP Regulations".

Andrew Siveter, Consultant, CMS Team, Sypol Ltd.

Andrew explained that he works in the COSHH Management System (CMS) Team at Sypol Ltd, providing an on-line service to clients for COSHH Assessments and Control Measures. He added that the system was outlined, together with other Sypol services, in the information pack on the seats.



Andrew Siveter, CMS Team, Sypol Ltd.

He then went on to deal with some of the jargon surrounding today's topic by explaining some of the terms he would use: -

- **GHS** is Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.
- **CLP** is Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures and is the European version of GHS.
- **CHIP** is the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2009 and is the legislation we currently use to classify hazardous substances.

Andrew explained that the new Regulation will apply directly in all EU member states, so that they will not have to implement it in national legislation. They will, however, need to repeal any existing legislation that implements their current classification and labelling system. Because there is a lead-in period to the new legislation, the CHIP Regulations will still be amended until the the CLP Regulation is fully implemented. Hence the creation of CHIP4 to set the framework to allow CLP and CHIP to run side-by-side.

There are some crucial dates to remember: -

1st December 2010

- Substances
 - Must be classified under CLP on Safety Data Sheets and package labelling
 - May also carry a CHIP classification
 - There is a 2 years' grace for packaging
- Mixtures
 - Must be classified under CHIP

- May also carry a CLP classification

1st June 2015

- Substances and mixtures must be classified under CLP only
- There is a further two year grace period for existing packaging for mixtures

Andrew said that a substance or mixture classified as hazardous and contained in packaging will bear a label including the following elements: -

- The name, address and telephone number of the supplier(s).
- The nominal quantity of the substance or mixture in the package, unless this quantity is specified elsewhere on the package.
- Product identifiers
- Hazard pictograms
- Signal words
- Hazard Statements appropriate precautionary statements
- Where applicable, supplementary information.

One of the more marked differences was that CLP introduces Hazard Statements, which are phrases applied to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazards of a hazardous substance or mixture, including the degree of hazard. Any hazard statement must be included on the label. They are associated with Hazard Codes, in the format of **Hxxx**, which are used for reference and are not to be intended to interchangeable with hazard statements. Examples are: -

- H225 Highly flammable liquid and vapour
- H311 Toxic in contact with skin
- H402 Harmful to aquatic life

Andrew continued by saying that the CLP Regulations contain a new range of pictograms, some of which are different from the CHIP versions, as follows: -



- Unstable explosive
- Explosive: mass explosion hazard
- Explosive: severe projection hazard
- Explosive: fire, blast or projection hazard
- Fire or projection hazard
- Heating may cause explosion



- Extremely flammable gas
- Flammable aerosols
- Flammable liquid and vapours
- Catches fire spontaneously if exposed to air
- Flammable solid
- Heating may cause fire
- Self-heating; may catch fire
- In contact with water releases flammable gas

- In contact with water releases flammable gases which may ignite spontaneously
- Self-heating in large quantities; may catch fire



- May cause or intensify fire; oxidiser
- May cause fire or explosion; strong oxidiser
- May intensify fire; oxidiser



- Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated
- Contains refrigerated gas; may cause cryogenic burns or injury



- May be corrosive to metals
- Causes serious eye damage
- Causes severe skin burns and eye damage



- Fatal if swallowed
- Toxic if swallowed
- Fatal in contact with skin
- Toxic in contact with skin
- Fatal if inhaled
- Toxic if inhaled



- Harmful if swallowed
- Harmful in contact with skin
- Causes skin irritation
- May cause an allergic skin reaction
- Causes serious skin irritation
- Harmful if inhaled
- May cause respiratory irritation



- Very toxic to aquatic life

- Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects
- Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects



- May cause genetic defects
 - May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled
 - Suspected of causing genetic defects
 - May cause cancer
 - Suspected of causing cancer
 - May cause damage to organs
 - Causes damage to organs
- Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
 - May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
 - Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child
 - May damage fertility or the unborn child
 - May be fatal if swallowed or enters airways

Another significant piece of information is the Product Identifier, which details the identification of the substance or mixture and contains the following: -

- The name and identification number, as given in Annex VI of the Regulations
- If the substance is not included in Annex VI, the name and identification number, as it appears in the classification and labelling inventory
- If the substance is not included in either of the above two documents, the CAS number together with an international chemical name(s)
- If the CAS number is not available, an international chemical name(s)

For a mixture, the Product Identifier shall consist of: -

- Trade Name or designation of the mixture
- The identity of all substances in the mixture that contribute to the classification of the mixture as regards acute toxicity, skin corrosion or serious eye damage, germ cell mutagenicity, carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, respiratory or skin sensitisation, specific target organ toxicity or aspiration hazard.
- a maximum of four chemical names on one label shall suffice (unless more than four names are needed to reflect the nature and the severity of the hazards)

Signal words indicate the relative level of severity of hazards to alert the reader to a potential hazard. There are two levels: -

1. Danger – indicating the more severe hazard categories
2. Warning – indicating the less severe hazard categories.

Significantly, the Signal word Warning will not appear on a label, but will appear on the safety data sheet

Andrew then mentioned the Precautionary Statement that is a phrase describing recommended measure(s) to minimise or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous substance or mixture due to its use or disposal. These must be included on the label and, as with the hazard statements, are given Precaution Codes in the form **Pxxx**. Not more than six Precautionary Statements shall appear on

the label, unless necessary to reflect the nature and severity of the hazards. Examples of precautionary statements are : -

- P102 Keep out of reach of children
- P271 Use only outdoors or in well ventilated areas
- P410 Protect from sunlight

Andrew concluded by mentioning that the existing Approved Supply List (ASL) with classifications and labelling requirements for about 7,000 substances will be repealed at the end of the transitional period. The European Chemicals Bureau has 'translated' the ASL into the GHS criteria and, once completed, it will be transferred to Annex VI of the new CLP Regulation.

Members' Questions

Tim Prestage of Tim Prestage Ltd. asked about problems with Product Safety Data Sheets for substances such as hardwood dust or fumes from welding rods. Andrew agreed that this type of problem had no solution and that there were no phrases that were applicable to welding rods

Warwick Adams, of Interserve Project Services, enquired if there was any clear classification of substances and Andrew replied that it was a complicated situation with, unfortunately, no simple answer.

(Secretary's Notes:

1. Annex VI is accessible on <http://ecb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esis/>
2. The CLP Regulations are accessible on <http://echa.europa.eu> . BE WARNED, however, there are 1355 pages in this document! Before downloading, take a look at the Annexes that can be downloaded separately, which are listed on the home page for these Regulations. Also note that Annex VII on page 1352, contains a conversion table to take you from Risk Phrases to Hazard Statements.
3. Most statements and classifications on CLP are compatible with CHIP4 but you will have to review your COSHH assessments to make the translation as soon as possible after the legislation starts to take effect.)

As there were no further questions, the Chairman closed the meeting and asked the members to join him in thanking Andrew for a very comprehensive update on this significant change in legislation.

Annual Membership Subscriptions

Many thanks to all those members who have already paid their Annual Subscriptions. To those you who haven't yet paid, could I mention that I have noticed on one or two cheques that some have the Vat missed off (an easy mistake to make) or maybe even the last few pence. Although it doesn't seem much, it does bite into the postage costs and I would ask you to be careful when making out the cheques. Look after the pence, etc.!

Presidential Appeal

It is just over a year since our last President, Morris Cooke, sadly passed away. Since then the BHSEA Council and Management Committee have been searching for an appropriate successor to fill the gap – not an easy act to follow, as we have found out. So we are asking the Membership to help us in this task by making nominations for a person who would be needed to represent and promote the interests of BHSEA throughout the West Midlands. This person would ideally have some standing in a prominent organisation in Region.

If you can think of someone who might fit this role, why not contact the Secretary with your suggestion? Replies would be appreciated sometime before the time of the next meeting so that the Management Committee could consider an appointment before the 2011 AGM.

Date of the next Meeting

2.00 pm on Monday 11th October 2010

at the Birmingham Medical Institute

Getting to Grips with Vibration

Peter Wilson, Director, Industrial Noise & Vibration Centre.

Widely recognised as the leading UK exponents of best practice in noise and vibration control and management, the INVC is the ideal first port of call for advice, information and practical solutions to noise and vibration problems.

Since the 1985 buy-out of part of the Lucas Industries noise and vibration facilities, INVC have provided an expanding range noise and vibration related engineering consultant activities, specialising in developing and implementing "best practice". The success of their approach has made them the company of choice for their specialities with a diverse range of companies such as Cadbury, GlaxoSmithKline, Nestlé, CMB, CompAir, Coca Cola, BAA, Desoutter and many others.

The "engineering expertise" element is the key to their style, as it brings a creative pragmatism to developing elegant, cost effective solutions to the underlying problems. Their work has also led to the development of the largest HAV database of accurate field data available, enabling very low cost virtual HAV assessment.

Peter's presentation will bring us right up-to-date with the best of modern techniques!

Don't forget the buffet lunch at 1.15 pm!