



RADIO ACTIVE MATERIAL

Update from recent RPS course

CLEAPSS recently ran a course

in Kings Lynn for Radiological Protection Supervisors. Our newly appointed Radiological Protection Adviser, Monty Guest also attended. There were a few issues raised during the day that I feel need a mention here, to try and ensure that we are following the rules.

Leak Testing – this should be taking place every 12 months, for both the bunker and the sources. Our unique, concrete, bunkering systems has caused a certain amount of interest with CLEAPSS! One issue is the risk of injury from lifting out the blocks, so please take care. The other problem is the risk of leakage contaminating the concrete. To prevent this, try fitting a plastic tray into the base and keeping all the material in the tray. An ice-cream container is about the right size and should fit neatly. If you have the original Panax kits you should have a large wooden box which contains the absorbers and the stand for the GM tube and for mounting the sources. If this box no longer contains radioactive sources the hazard sign on the outside should be removed, (probably easier to cover with a label or sticky tape!). The smaller wooden boxes containing the closed sources should have a hazard sign on them. A range of these hazard signs can be downloaded from the CLEAPSS CD-ROM and printed onto labels. Schools using radioactive sources must have a working ratemeter and GM tube.

The RPS (within the school) is responsible for ensuring that local rules are followed and a radioactive file is created. This file should contain all relevant paper records including leak testing reports. Pages 46,47 & 48 from the CLEAPSS Guide, L93, should also be completed. Thoron generators should be checked to ensure that no thorium powder can escape from the plastic bottle. Those bottles with Y connectors and rubber tubes should be checked for deterioration. A simpler method uses a single tube with a double chamois disc under the cap to allow the gas out but not the powder

CLEAPSS

For many years, CLEAPSS have had accommodation at Brunel University, in Uxbridge, for a peppercorn rent of a pound a year. Unfortunately, this arrangement is soon to cease and they find themselves having to find new accommodation. This is likely to cost in the region of £100,000 p.a. so CLEAPSS have been looking at costings and slowly increasing their fees, printed material charges and courses. Electronic publications are saving some money but they will still have to be much more cost aware than before.

With LEAs also experiencing change, the CLEAPSS name will not be strictly accurate. CLEAPSS have decided to keep the name as it is nationally and internationally recognised. They are therefore intending to continue using the CLEAPSS name as a logo, protected by copyright.

Event at City College Norwich

City College Norwich is holding an event on the afternoon of Wednesday 14 June, from 2 to 5pm to launch the second phase of collaboration with STE UK Ltd, a leading UK manufacturer of educational scientific equipment. Under this agreement various items, relating to physics, chemistry and biology, are available within the College and may be taken out on loan, by schools.

During the launch event a number of these items will be on display for hands on use by participants. A presentation and demonstrations on developments, and trends, in science equipment and teaching guides, will be given by STE Managing Director, Frank Campbell. Amongst new items will be an expanded range of microscopes that will be of interest to biologists, including entirely new, Field Microscope Kits, with rechargeable LED illumination and new imaging products allowing off-site work. Products targeting the new twenty first century, forensic science curriculum are also featured.

STE UK Ltd., have recently published a new Microscopy Catalogue which is available from 01795 474 700 or at info@steuk.co.uk. If you wish to see any particular item from the microscope catalogue or from STE's general product catalogue, please contact the company on-line at www.steuk.co.uk. A list of the equipment available for loan may also be obtained from STE on request. It would also be useful, but not essential, to let STE know you will be coming to this launch.

The event will be signed from the main reception at the College. The contact for this event at City College, Norwich, is Mark Penn on 01603-773180 or mpenn@ccn.ac.uk





Included with this issue is a **free CD** on how an oil refinery operates, including distillation and cracking animations. Provided by ASE.

CLEAPSS - Making Simple Science Equipment Course at Alderman Peel High School

The above course is a new course and was run as a trial by CLEAPSS at a subsidised fee. Eleven technicians attended and the day was a great success. The technicians were able to try new skills while at the same time producing something useful to take back to school. Plastic Corriflute

was used to make a Hazcard box, and a very useful, holder for metal electrodes. Soldering skills were used to produce a fuse tester, connecting leads and



holders for electronic components from plastic trunking. Glass working skills produced a useful manometer and a small spirit burner.

A length of copper tubing and a magnet made a Lenzes apparatus for a few pence compared to the many pounds if bought from a scientific catalogue. The technicians were busy all day and there was only a very small trace of blood! Chris Peel from CLEAPSS was pleased and will make only a few changes. The day was made better by the very good lunch.



DATA-LOGGING COURSE for TECHNICIANS 18th July - Norwich Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road

I need more applicants for this course!

I have had several requests for courses on data-logging so don't miss this opportunity. It is at the end of the summer term so the school pressure should be off. This is your chance to ask questions and find out more about the different manufacturers and how to use various types of sensor.

Although Phil Godding will be using the Philip Harris e.Loggers he is experienced with all the different manufacturers and is nationally



recognised as one of the most informed IT presenters. He will be able to advise you on a range of issues so even if you have LogIt or Data Harvest you will find the day useful. The new e.Loggers are compatible with the old Philip Harris equipment. Book your place now!

Gene Technology Courses 2006

This year there is a NEW course, designed especially for technicians, called Biotechnology for Technicians. Participants will be able to get hints, tips, and health and safety advice on Biotechnology. On this one-day, hands-on course, you will prepare and carry out the whole DNA Fingerprinting experiment yourself. Join your colleagues for some crime solving fun!

All participants get refreshments, lunch, resources and a FREE 20-200ul micropipette (worth £125)!

For more information please see,

www.explorer.bio-rad.com,

or feel free to contact Melanie direct at

Bio-Rad Laboratories Ltd

Maxted Road, Hemel Hempstead

Herts, HP2 7DX, UK

Phone: +44 (0) 20 8328 2260

Mobile: +44 (0) 7748 334 691

Fax: +44 (0) 20 8328 2550

email: melanie_hanna@bio-rad.com

REMINDERS:

- CLEAPSS Health & Safety courses: The Technicians course is now FULL.
- Think about booking the BA Festival in Norwich (September 2nd - 9th) before you break up for the summer holidays!

