

Presentation on the new guidance on First Aid Training Glenn Musgrove, MOHS Workplace Health Ltd.

Bob introduced our speaker, **Glenn Musgrove, from BHSEA Member MOHS Workplace Health**, by thanking him for stepping in at short notice. Glenn opened his presentation by announcing that MOHS had been closely involved in the new guidance but that it had not been finalised for publication yet. Although it was expected shortly, he could give us a good idea about the major changes involved.

Firstly, the main requirement was for a risk assessment to determine the need for first aid persons and a scale of first aid kits. Any persons selected for training must have an aptitude to absorb knowledge and skills, be physically fit and have a good knowledge of the English language. This would enable them, he added, to cope with the stressful and physically demanding emergency procedures. Another condition was that they should have duties that do not prevent them from going immediately to an emergency!

Glenn went on to say that these duties of Employers were laid down in Regulation 3, which also said that the employer should provide appropriate training in the circumstances, *in addition* to what the HSE might approve. The new guidelines on approved training will take effect on 1st October 2009 BUT any existing training certificates will still be valid until they expire when new training will have to be undertaken.

The primary training approved by the HSE will be the First Aid at Work (FAW) course, lasting a total of 18 hours, over three days. This will qualify the First Aider for three years and there will be a period of 28 days grace to requalify, with no tolerance. The requalification course will also be HSE approved and will last for 12 hours, over 2 days. Both of these include a formal assessment!

By contrast, the training for an Emergency First Aid/Appointed Person, (EFAW) will NOT be HSE approved, will last for six hours and will not have an examination. The Qualification period will be for three years and it is intended for workers in a low risk environment or those providing holiday or sickness cover for first aiders. Typically, this would be suited to firms with few employees or visitors! Glenn added that, although not mandatory, the HSE strongly recommends annual refresher training for three hours and MOHS had noticed that proficiencies were improved by doing this. He also commented that none of the courses contained paediatric training, desirable for schools, nor defibrillator training.

On the subject of risk assessment, Glenn said this is fully explained in the HSE free leaflet, **INDG214, First aid at work, Your questions answered**. This is freely downloadable on the following link: -

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg214.pdf>

As is the full ACOP L74 **First aid at work**, The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981, Approved Code of Practice and Guidance, on this link: -

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/174.pdf>

Glenn concluded by warning that some companies faced a situation where they received many times more visitors than employees and that their risk assessments should address that situation specifically.

Bob Cole closed this part of the meeting by thanking Glenn again and members gave their thanks in the customary manner!