



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES AND EQUITY

TO: Business Board

FROM: Professor Angela Hildyard
CONTACT INFO: 416 978 4865
angela.hildyard@utoronto.ca

DATE: April 24, 2006 for May 3, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 4(b)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Health and Safety Requirements – Quarterly Report on Compliance

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Business Board is responsible for monitoring health and safety compliance. This report is for information.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Professor Hildyard has undertaken to provide the Business Board with quarterly statements with respect to the University's compliance with legal requirements in the area of health and safety. This is the third such quarterly statement. This report also provides a summary of the University's response to the recent audit report received from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

STATEMENT:

1. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Audit of UofT Radiation Protection Program

An audit of the University Radiation Protection Program (RPP) was undertaken by staff of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), November 29 - December 2, 2005.

The scope of the evaluation included the following aspects of the Radiation Protection Program:

- Emergencies and Unplanned Events
- Environmental Protection
- Training and Qualification
- Operational Procedures
- Organization and Management

- Security
- International Obligations and Safeguards.

One Directive and one Action Notice were issued. Both relate to the resources available to the RPS, the authority delegated to the RPS within the University and the demonstration of compliance with regulatory requirements, particularly ensuring the security of nuclear substances and radiation devices. Added security measures for larger radioactive sources such as irradiators are required and it will be necessary to provide secondary security in the form of lockable storage facilities (refrigerators/freezers) for radioactive materials used in research laboratories.

In its response to the CNSC the University has indicated that it will undertake several actions including:

- Implement improved procedures to track purchase and inventory of radioactive materials.
- Reinforce instructions to permit holders regarding the provision of hands-on training.
- Enforce requirement to complete refresher training as a prerequisite to permit renewal.
- Strengthen the discipline procedure for non compliance.

The Chair of the Radiation Protection Authority, the Vice-President Human Resources and Equity and the Director of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety are currently reviewing resource and security issues, organizational structures and internal policies, procedures and authorizations for use of radioactive materials.

2. Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) Orders

2.1. Vinyl Chloride, Environmental Laboratory, Dept of Civil Engineering

The MOL investigated employees' concerns regarding the use of vinyl chloride (a known human carcinogen) in a laboratory on March 16, 2006. The MOL inspector issued the following orders:

Order #	Description	Comply By Date	Status
1	Columns of soil to be tested for the presence of vinyl chloride.	Apr 28, 2006	Completed by due date. Testing showed no vinyl chloride present.
2	Protocols and procedures for hazardous substances to accurately reflect the current status of the workplace, to be appropriately enforced, and all workers to be provided with information, instruction and supervision to protect their safety.	-	Existing written procedures being reviewed and updated.

3	Compliance plan to be submitted to the MOL indicating steps that will be taken to comply with Order #2, by whom, and when the employer intends to achieve compliance	Apr 28, 2006	Draft plan has been developed and will be finalized following further consultation with department. Final plan to be forwarded to MOL before due date.
---	--	--------------	--

2.2 Asbestos Incident, OISE/UT Chiller Replacement, Capital Projects

The MOL conducted an investigation on April 7, 2006 of an asbestos incident involving the removal of asbestos insulation by an external contractor without appropriate asbestos precautions being taken. Because University employees were also conducting work at the project site, the Ministry deemed that the University was a constructor on the project. In addition to orders issued directly to the contractor, the following orders were issued to the University. While we have complied with the Ministry's orders, we disagree with their interpretation of the Act and will be discussing this with them further.

Order #	Description	Comply By Date	Status
1	Constructor to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures and procedures required by the Act and its regulations be carried out on the project ▪ Every employer and worker on the project to comply with the law ▪ Protect the workers' health and safety 	Apr 7, 2006	Completed by due date.
2	Notice of Project to be submitted to the MOL.	Apr 14, 2006	In progress and will be completed before the due date.
3	Appoint a competent person as supervisor on the project.	Apr 7, 2006	Completed. Previous on-site supervisor replaced.

3. Summary

In summary, based on the reports I have received through the operation of our occupational health and safety policy, to the best of my knowledge the University is in compliance with its health and safety obligations.