



TO: Business Board

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AGENDA ITEM: 9(a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Health and Safety Requirements – Quarterly Report on Compliance

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 first quarterly statement for 2011/2012.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Business Board is responsible for monitoring health and safety compliance. This report is an information update since our last report.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Outlined above.

STATEMENT:

1. Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) Orders

The Ministry of Labour has not visited the University since the last business board report. There have been no serious employee injuries during this period of time.

2. Regulatory Audits

The CNSC inspected the University waste facilities on June 21, 2011 and made three observations. The first highlighted the lateness of a bioassay for the radiation service technicians, the second recommended that area codes be added to the emergency contact lists, and the third concerned a loose guard on a fan in an area near the waste facility within MSB. All three recommendations have been addressed.

3. Federal and Provincial Regulatory Activity

Environment Canada has communicated that a new reporting mechanism for genetically modified organisms will be enacted shortly. It is anticipated that researchers will be asked to ensure that organisms used for research have adequate physical containment to ensure that they are not able to escape to the outside environment.

Public Health Agency of Canada has begun to draft regulations to control the use of biologicals. In addition to this, the Public Health Agency of Canada is considering the adoption of the recently drafted ISO Biorisk standard to add security measures to established biosafety programs.

A new CSA standard on nanomaterials is in the draft stage, and may require additional oversight with management systems and health and safety programs to ensure adequate safety to researchers.

The Ministry of Labour is increasing their mandatory training expectations. The University of Toronto currently has the following voluntary on-line training available: safety orientation, supervisor safety, and academic supervisor safety.

Summary

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