



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
HUMAN RESOURCES & EQUITY

TO: Business Board

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DATE: Sept. 12, 2008 for Sept. 22, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 7

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 second quarterly statement for 2008.

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 (MOL) visited the University Scarborough Campus (UTSC) on two separate occasions in this reporting period. The first visit occurred on July 11, 2008. During this visit a MOL inspector observed the grounds crew working on a sprinkler system located on the boulevard at the entrance to the University. The inspector decided that the workflow on a neighbouring public road would be impacted by the work on U of T premises. The inspector issued an order requesting a U of T traffic control plan within an appropriate time period. Implementation of the plan is in progress.

2. Regulatory Audits

Two CNSC inspections occurred during this period. The CNSC conducted an unannounced inspection on June 18, 2008 on the management of the waste program. The inspection went very well, without any orders. The second inspection occurred on September 2nd and 3rd. Observations included a researcher with a coffee in a lab, as well as a researcher conducting work in a location that was not on his permit. 12 non-compliances were documented on this visit. We are expecting that the CNSC report will contain two orders and ten action notices. EH&S is in the process of addressing all issues with the CNSC.

Two Ministry of Environment inspections occurred during this time period. The Ministry of Environment inspected the Aerospace Facility on August 28, 2008 for waste management practices. No deficiencies were noted during this inspection. All hazardous waste paperwork, procedures and training met expectations.

The Ministry of Environment responded to a spill (reported by a contractor) from our chillers on June 12, 2008. After consultation with both the U of T and the contractor, the MOE simply recommended that the University enhance reporting procedures to the MOE.

3. Federal Regulatory Activity - Biosafety

Bill C-54, concerning the safety and security of human pathogens and toxins, had first reading on April 29, 2008. This bill, if passed, would entrench into law the laboratory safety guidelines published by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). In addition to adopting the guidelines, the Federal government defined new oversight powers concerning human pathogen and toxin activities in Canada. The U of T has conducted stakeholder meetings to obtain feedback from the U of T research community, (including teaching hospitals). In addition, U of T arranged for a Toronto based PHAC public consultation session as well as a private meeting between U of T and PHAC. Due to the upcoming Federal election, these consultation sessions have been cancelled. However, PHAC has advised that the Bill is only delayed, not dead.

4. Database Management System for Radiation, Biosafety, Chemicals and Waste

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety is in the final stage of selecting a web-based chemical, biological, and radiation safety data management system. The system will address the seventh non-compliance item from the CNSC inspection in February, as well as provide the framework to address the management system expectations of the laboratory guidelines, and Bill C-54.

Summary

In summary, based on the reports I have received through the operation of our occupational health and safety policy, and except with reference to the items described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, to the best of my knowledge the University is in compliance with its health and safety obligations.