



# University of Toronto

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT  
HUMAN RESOURCES & EQUITY

TO: Business Board

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DATE: December 4, 2008 for December 15, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 8

## **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.

## **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

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

## **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

Outlined above.

## **STATEMENT:**

### **1. Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) Orders**

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) visited the University Scarborough Campus (UTSC) once (September 30, 2008) during this reporting period. This visit finalized the investigation into a worker's allegation that an illness was caused by exposure to biological materials at UTSC. The Ministry reviewed all evidence and concluded, as we anticipated, that there was no link between the biological materials at UTSC and the worker's illness.

The MOL visited the St. George campus between November 13 and November 27, 2008 to inspect the X-Ray safety program. We received 25 orders in total. Most of the orders focused on administrative documentation and 13 pertained to inventory updates that had not been forwarded, as required, to the MOL. One order, however, related to an employee override of a safety interlock. Safety interlocks are intended to prevent harmful exposure during the operation of equipment. This issue was immediately addressed by the manager and employee. The inspection has prompted the EHS radiation safety group to enhance their program as follows: 1) mandatory refresher training every 2 years for every x-ray operator: 2) during EHS internal inspections, more attention will be focused on the user's understanding of procedures.

## **2. Regulatory Audits**

The CNSC accepted the university's written response to their audit of Sept. 2, 2008. The CNSC has communicated to us that an inspection of an additional 5 buildings is being planned for very early in 2009.

## **3. Federal Regulatory Activity - Biosafety**

Bill C-54, concerning the safety and security of human pathogens and toxins has been delayed due to the election in October and subsequent turmoil in the federal government. The Public Health Advisory Council has indicated to biosafety officers that the Bill will be re-tabled shortly.

## **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 noted above, to the best of my knowledge the University is in compliance with its health and safety obligations.