



April/May 2008

Good health & safety makes business sense – health & safety is often given as a reason for not doing things. Sometimes, it seems that it is an excuse for someone not doing something they would prefer not to do. But effectively managing health & safety in a business is essential to efficiency, saving unnecessary cost, investing in employees, contributing to the well-being of our community, protecting reputation and doing things not otherwise possible or which would otherwise result in the failure of a venture. A number of health & safety myths have arisen over the years - see www.hse.gov.uk/myth/

How clean is your keyboard? – a recent report by Which? suggests that many computer keyboards are not cleaned, have food and drink spilled on them and contain a variety of bacteria, some of which are of the most harmful type. The build up of bacteria is encouraged if keyboards are used by unclean hands. It is worth addressing this aspect, taking suitable action and when cleaning keyboards, use appropriate materials and don't forget to clean your monitor too – see www.which.co.uk

Guernsey law – are you up-to-date? Have a look at the Guernsey HSE website via the link page in www.gosha.org.uk for details on the health & safety ordinance, reporting an accident, employers' duties, employees' responsibilities, requirements of persons in control of premises, designers and the regulations and approved codes of practice applicable to the various areas of business.

Healthy Workforce – lots of resources are available in Guernsey to help you keep your workforce healthy. Employees have the key role of course but are they aware of what is available? Help them to find out or employ an expert to assist you – see the links and training pages in www.gosha.org.uk

Guernsey guide to food safety – follow the link in our website and know the law, the guidance available for staff and the training which must be undertaken for all staff involved with the preparation, delivery and serving of food.

Health & safety leadership – guidance for directors – listen to guidance on-line or download the podcast at www.hse.gov.uk/podcasts/2008/leadership.htm. The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force in the UK on 6 April.

Risk assessments – we have some local examples in our website (as mentioned in our November 2007 newsletter). The HSE have now produced examples for different trades (e.g. offices, food preparation, motor trade and so on)– see www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/index.htm

Sunbeds – you may have seen recent press reports on the potential dangers of uv tanning equipment. The HSE has issued guidance at www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/sunbeds.htm. Whether your work includes use/hire of such equipment or if you use it in a private capacity, you will find this site helpful.

Storage facilities and warehousing - a free guide to health & safety connected with facilities of this type can be downloaded from www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg412.pdf

DSE – working with VDUs – this is another free leaflet, following on from our are you sitting comfortably feature in the January 2008 newsletter, which you can download at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg36.pdf. The FAQs have also been up-dated at www.hse.gov.uk/contact/faqs/vdubreaks.htm

Falls from height (prosecution) - we've covered this topic on a number of occasions in the past – read about the UK prosecution of a well-known company which did not fulfil its obligations to its employees at www.hse.gov.uk/press/2008/hsee7308.htm. The key messages equally apply to businesses in Guernsey.

Flu Pandemic – the HSE has up-dated its guidance for workplaces at www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/diseases/pandflu.htm

Hairdressers & beauty salons - good working practices can help workers to avoid respiratory and skin conditions - see www.hsenews.com/2008/04/23/occupational-diseases-in-hairdressers-and-nail-bars/

GOSHA news

- **Practical site visits** – our sincere thanks to
 - **RG Falla** for the excellent visit to the Les Nicolles schools site just before Easter
 - **Guernsey Electricity** for offering members a site visit on 22 May – now full

More visits will be arranged later in the year. All so far arranged have proved interesting, full of learning, fun and memorable - a good way to add knowledge and earn CPD points.

- **Open Meetings in 2008** – dates have been booked with La Trelade for 19 June (Managing Stress), 18 September (TBA) and 20 November (Hannah Beacom, MD of Island Coachways). Another good way to add knowledge and earn CPD points.
- **Website** – we hope you continue to find www.gosha.org.uk helpful. It contains lots of practical help including the legally required Guernsey H&S law poster (see the links page)
- **GOSHA window stickers** – are a great way to make others aware of our association and highlight your concern for workplace health and safety in Guernsey. Please ask any member of the committee for yours.
- **Membership pack** – we are now working on a membership pack for new & existing members – details to follow.
- **New treasurer** – our thanks to Gordon Snell for taking over from Mhairi Macgregor. Gordon is co-opted to the committee until our next AGM.
- **Mike Earp** – has now left Guernsey following the expiry of his housing licence to take up a new position in the UK. Mike was the first chairman of GOSHA and has always been an active and enthusiastic member. We will miss his input and know-how.
- **Raising issues/training needs etc** - our next committee meeting will be on 5 June – if you would like to raise any matter, please contact a member of the committee (details at www.gosha.org.uk).

GOSHA Committee