

May 2016

In the recent SafeWork NSW Self-Insurance Licence audit UNSW achieved a compliance score of 90.9% for Management Responsibility and 90.9% for Risk Management. This is an excellent outcome and evidence of the operational effectiveness of the UNSW Health and Safety Management System. Self-insurance saves the UNSW at least \$3-4m per year as opposed to private insurance and supports a strong safety culture across the University. It also provides personalised treatment of injured staff and improves safety outcomes overall. The audit took place over 4 days, from 12-15 April. We are now working on a plan to address the audit corrective actions and will share these as soon as available.



Self-insurance audit success

Congratulations to School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences (BABS) and School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the two verification sites for the recent SafeWork NSW Self-Insurance Licence audit. Together they helped UNSW achieve a score of 90.9%. Each school was visited for a day by 4 auditors. Several persons across both schools were interviewed by the auditors and presented vast and detailed evidence to demonstrate implementation of the UNSW Health and Safety Management System. A big thank you to everyone involved in helping UNSW to maintain its self-insurance licence for workers compensation for another 3 years.



Global Corporate Challenge

UNSW is taking part in the Global Corporate Challenge (GCC) again this year, which starts on 25 May 2016. Already a large number of teams from across the university have signed up to participate. The challenge is a 100 day virtual journey to clock-up 10,000 steps per day, improve nutrition and improve sleep patterns. If you are keen to improve your health and would like to know more information on getting involved see our [GCC news page](#).



Staff influenza vaccine

The annual opportunity for staff to receive a free influenza vaccine is still available. The clinic is open until 12 May from 9am - 1pm. To make an appointment register online via [UNSW Health Services](#). The most effective way of minimising the effects of influenza is via a comprehensive vaccination program. This service is provided on behalf of the VP Campus Life and Community Engagement as part of the Campus Life Health and Wellbeing strategy.

Campus safety night

UNSW Security Services is hosting a Campus Safety Night. This will cover crime mapping on campus, security on campus, a guest speaker from NSW Police and group discussions to identify safety improvements on campus. The event will be on Wednesday 18 May at



5pm, in Tyree Energy Technologies Building (H6), Room G17. To register provide your name and zID to security.services@unsw.edu.au, get in quick as places are restricted.



World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world on May 31. It is intended to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption around the globe. It is also intended to draw attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects, which currently lead to nearly 6 million deaths each year worldwide, include 600,00 of which are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

UNSW is joining groups around the world, from local clubs to city councils to national governments, to organise events on Friday 31 May to celebrate World No Tobacco Day. UNSW Safety and Sustainability will have an information stall outside the UNSW Library and will offer referrals to the UNSW Health Service for smokers trying to quit to receive advice and assistance from qualified health professionals. UNSW celebrates two years as a smoke free campus this year (see the [Smoke Free Environment Policy](#)).



Gene technology training

"Gene Technology Regulations at UNSW" is a new online training module for staff and students undertaking gene technology dealings. It lays out the regulatory framework for research on genetically modified organisms and UNSW requirements for both the Gene Technology Research Committee approval process and working in OGTR-certified physical containment facilities. The module is available in myUNSW Learning and Development (course code HSEGTC) and takes about 30 minutes to complete. On successful completion the result will be officially uploaded to the staff and student profiles and used to determine future eligibility to participate as investigator on Gene Technology Research Committee applications. For more information please visit <https://research.unsw.edu.au/gene-technology-unsw>.



Microbiological labs

Australian Standard 2243: Safety In Laboratories - Part 3 Microbiological Safety and Containment is currently under review and Standards Australia is accepting comments on it as part of the consultation process. Now is a good chance to raise anything you think needs changing in the document. If you would like to have your say a draft copy is available at the SAI store. You will need to register with SAI Global to obtain a free copy, licensed for your personal use, more details [online here](#). We have produced a [summary of changes](#) in the draft for your review. Please provide your comments to Kate Noble, Health and Safety Coordinator (Biosafety), who is co-ordinating the UNSW response.



New ergonomics provider

The Health and Safety Coordinator for Ergonomics, Andrea Dlouhy, is going on maternity leave at the end of May, therefore we advise use of an external provider for ergonomic assessment services. ProRehab Solutions are recommended as they have experienced Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, and/or Exercise Physiologists. The Ergonomic Assessment will follow the UNSW Health and Safety checklist format and any recommendations will be listed in a report. Contact admin@prorehab.com.au.

If proRehab are not available then Interact Injury Management are also recommended; contact referrals@interactgroup.com.au. Interact Injury Management also covers Canberra Campus. For further information see our [Ergonomics webpage](#).

New Biosecurity Act

The Biosecurity Act 2015 commences on 16 June 2016. Under the new legislation your current Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) approval will become a transitional



Approved Arrangement, which will expire on 30 June 2016. If you want to continue operating under an arrangement with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources after 30 June 2016, you must submit an [Application for an approved arrangement for existing quarantine approved premises](#) before 1 June 2016.

If you are applying for approval the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will need to determine that you are a [fit and proper person](#) to carry out biosecurity activities.



Lessons learnt

An incident occurred recently at an American university whereby a researcher was using a digital gauge not designed for work with flammable gases, this resulted in an explosion and the researcher lost an arm in the incident. The researcher was combining hydrogen, carbon dioxide and oxygen gases from high pressure cylinders into a lower pressure tank. A digital pressure gauge, not rated as intrinsically safe, was used and when the off button was pressed it caused a spark, resulting in a 49L tank to explode due to flammable gas being present. A smaller tank had a minor internal explosion earlier in the week and the researcher had reported static shock when touching the tank; however these were not investigated further. Please ensure that gauges are intrinsically safe when necessary and fully investigate any minor warnings of problems with experiments.

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