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From: Alan Fairlamb
To: BCDD-CAT-SUITE
CC: Andrew Newman; Ian Scragg; Lisa Grayson
Date: 20/12/2011 12:37
Subject: HSE Inspection

Dear All:

There were a number of points raised by the HSE Inspector, Mr Sankey that I would like to draw to your attention.

1. Both CoPs for WTB1 and WBRU have been updated to address some changes to procedures or some omissions. Susan will be replacing the current CoPs in the labs. It is essential that you read them to refresh your knowledge about current procedures.
2. The liquid nitrogen facility in the basement has been added to the authorised areas for pathogen storage. It is essential that an accurate inventory of pathogens held is available for inspection by authorised individuals. The basement facility needs to be fitted with a lock and labelled as a biohazard. Keys will be available from either Susan Wyllie or Shona McInroy.
3. Pipette trays. Pipettes should have Virkon aspirated internally as well as being fully submerged in Virkon.
4. Pipette lids or other items should not cover the rear air vents in the class II hoods as this disturbs the air flow and puts both the user and their cultures at risk of contamination.
5. Some resheathed needles were found in a sharps bin. Resheathing of needles is the commonest method of accidental laboratory infection and is strictly prohibited under our Codes of Practice.
6. The CoP for injecting animals has been updated to allow use of a suitable physical restraining apparatus as well as an anaesthetic.
7. New lab coats with tight-fitting cuffs will replace the current gowns in WBRU.
8. 70% ethanol and 70% isopropanol are flammable liquids and need to be marked as such. The stock containers should be as small as is consistent with weekly requirements to reduce the risk of fire.

Overall, I think the inspector was impressed with our safety procedures and with these adjustments to our current CoPs I expect that our licence to work with T.brucei and other animal pathogens will be renewed for another three years.

Thank you all for maintaining a safe working environment.

Alan Fairlamb

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this email?