



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS

Review of existing ACDP published guidance

Issue

In October 2009, ACDP agreed in principle to a review of its published occupationally related guidance. The purpose of the review was to update guidance in light of scientific and technological advancements, and to amend references to legislation. Members prioritised a number of publications for review based on this, which were included in a paper to ACDP in February 2010 (Annex 1).

Background

The Coalition Government have set out a clear requirement for guidance on regulation to be proportionate and focussed on compliance. There is a Government wide approach to rationalise guidance and websites, in particular:

- The Government's "Common Sense, Common Safety" and "Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone" reports which include a commitment to simplify health and safety guidance - to make it easier for employers to do the right thing;
- The Government's growth agenda to ensure guidance is proportionate and create the best conditions for private sector growth and approach to better regulation.

As part of this approach, HSE is in the process of reviewing all its guidance for organisations, businesses and third sector organisations to ensure it represents a practical approach to help them comply with health and safety law. HSE wants to ensure its guidance remains focused and fit for purpose. This is especially important as HSE's Infoline service has been replaced by HSE's web-based advice service.

HSE have taken the principles of good guidance outlined in the Government's Business and skills (BIS's) 'Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation' as the basis for the review. These principles apply across all Government departments and can be found at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53268.pdf>,

ACDP guidance is out of scope of HSE's formal review, however, it provides technical guidance aimed at health and safety specialists or other technical experts and contains important information to aid compliance with health and safety legislation. ACDP's guidance is mostly available through HSE Books and/or hosted on HSE and DH websites via relevant links, it is therefore appropriate that it conforms to the same principles.

In October 2009, ACDP agreed in principle to a review of its published guidance. The basis and strategy for this review were included in a paper to ACDP in February 2010 (Annex 1).

In the same paper, HSE outlined a potential new approach for guidance i.e. to brigade all existing relevant information into selected and specifically identified electronic specialist supplements, linked by a central core. The intention was for the central core to be based around ACDP's proposed biosafety guidelines for CU2010. However, as the central core could use the current regulatory framework, this would allow for a review to begin now and prevent duplication and withdrawal of outdated publications. This approach also allows flexibility for any future amendments with relative ease.

Action

Members are asked to:

- agree to the review of ACDP guidance in line with the above proposal;
- and
- agree to build into the review the BIS Code of Practice on Guidance for Regulation.