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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Clarification - Making more information free and accessible on the web

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Cleared by Vivienne Dews and Colin Douglas on 12th April 2005

Issue

1. This paper clarifies the information in MISC/05/10 on making more information free and accessible on the web, following points raised by Hugh Robertson.

Timing

2. For information.

Recommendation

3. HSC to note the clarification provided.

Background

4. MISC/05/10 circulated to Commission members in early March provided a brief update of HSE's commercial strategy. This identified 1,000 publications which are to be made available free of charge and stated that work will shortly commence to convert these to non-priced web publications. This conversion work is aimed at ensuring these publications are of a 'web-lite' nature ie unnecessary tints and colour removed, so that the documents can be readily viewed and downloaded from the HSE website.
5. The paper did not make clear that all except some 40 or so of the publications referred to are currently available on the HSE website as downloadable, free of charge documents. However, whilst the majority of these are not in a 'web-lite' format and can

take considerable time to download and print, they are available as priced publications from HSE Books.

6. The HSE portfolio of publications has become lengthy and complex over the years. The commercial strategy, seeks to rationalise and structure HSE's approach to priced publications, whilst still generating income which helps support other HSE activity.
7. As part of the unravelling of the current arrangements we proposed HSE would no longer charge for various reports which form the vast majority of the 1,000 publications referred to in MISC/05/10. HSE's Communications Delivery Service (CDS) and Communications Directorate would then review both the location of those publications on the HSE website, and their electronic format. The aim is to ensure that the publications are readily accessible to users and downloadable.
8. MISC/05/10 should have made clear that nearly all the publications being made available free of charge were already available on the HSE website and that we were reviewing the electronic format rather than transferring them to the website. We apologise for the confusion.
9. As part of the commercial strategy, CDS are considering how all publications can be listed through the HSE website showing whether they are priced or non-priced and whether they are available in hard copy or in electronic format.
10. CDS are also presenting a paper to the HSE Board on 5 July proposing ways of making more of HSE's priced publications available free of charge. This will concentrate on publications not already available through the HSE website.

Consultation

11. Communications Directorate and Communications Delivery Service.

Presentation

12. None.

Costs and Benefits

13. N/A.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

14. N/A

