



EXPOSURE

Issue 4 | 2023



Contents

01

President Update

03

CEO Update

06

Registrar Update

08

Accreditation of the bohs register of occupational hygiene professionals by the professional standards agency

09

Shawcity Advertorial

13

FAAM Registrar Update

15

Annals Update

17

Vent-Tech Advert

18

BOHS Awards

20

Casella Advert

21

Important changes in qualifications for Occupational Hygienists in the UK

22

IOHA 2024 Registration Now Open

23

The HSW Act needs to be updated

25

Workshop on General and Local Exhaust Ventilation

28

BOHS Coat of Arms

29

UKHCA - Check It Out!

30

Ethics of Real-Time Monitoring

Alex Wilson

PRESIDENT UPDATE



As we draw to the end of 2023 I am reflecting back on just over half of my term as President.

I cannot believe what we have achieved and how much focus and hard work so many people have put in over the last year our 70th anniversary year. On thinking about what has made this a great time for BOHS two words came to mind, commitment and relationships.

Our society is built on our membership and the input they have as volunteers. I am continually left humbled at the numbers of people who commit their extra time to BOHS and the wider profession so that we can protect worker health. These volunteers are ably supported by our awesome head office team. We are so fortunate to have them and their output can only be described as well and truly punching above their weight. It would be hard for me to list absolutely everything that is going on with regards volunteer and working group outputs to some highlights can definitely be the 70th anniversary activities, the professional register, the faculty work as a whole, new specialist examiners, our conference organisers, our amazing regional organisers and I can go on and on. The commitment shown by these groups helps us achieve our mission for a healthy workplace and provides the BOHS and our members to position ourselves appropriately to make an impact

in what we do in our workplaces or in the policy arena. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful profession, thank you and let keep this momentum going.

We are stronger together, I am sure someone famous once said something like that. This is so evident in the mission we share with so many other professionals around worker health. Be that with professionals in our own ranks, borders as well as our international partners and family around the globe. I am writing this on my way home from a fantastic Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene Conference in Melbourne. Thank you to the AIOH team who were fantastic hosts but also for their passion and focus on the way they have been achieving their own mission for a safer and healthier workplace for all. We may be the other side of the world but we can share so much and working together sharing ideas, thoughts and initiatives is a great way to continue to grow these relationships.

In September this year the BOHS was kindly invited by the UK HSE to attend the PEROSH scientific conference in Stockholm. This collection of scientific research institutes from across Europe provided an amazing insight into the current research and latest results in continuing the cause of reducing the risk of harm.

Thank you to Andrew Curran and his team

for making this such an interesting time and I believe that our strong relationship the BOHS has with the HSE but one we can continue to strengthen.

Since September we have promoted further PEROSH webinars our members can benefit from and are developing some project work around exposure data collection with the HSE and IOM. This is all very exciting and can open up so many opportunities and areas to gain further insight into health risks.

Planning for the IOHA 2024 conference is well underway, this is another example of building and working with partners and fellow societies and associations where our relationships are strong and will become even stronger. The relationship between ourselves, the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland and the International Occupational Hygiene Association is proving to be one that is in my mind going to deliver a fantastic conference. This also links back fantastic volunteers we have. The scientific committee has received over 330 abstracts which is a phenomenal result. So good luck with getting that program sorted out team.

To end my thoughts on commitment and relationships I would like to take this opportunity to give you an insight into something that is being planned by some volunteers who are also extremely committed to developing the complete occupational hygienist. You may know that my presidential theme for this year is to promote and look at ways to develop soft skills and or leadership skills in our profession. We have so many opportunities to strengthen our technical skills it is vital we can become the total hygienist. All being well we will be holding an Emerging Leaders Institute the weekend before the IOHA 2024 conference in June 2024.

This event will be an opportunity for

group of early mid career professionals to build skills and knowledge in this area. I was able to do the fantastic AIHA Future Leaders Institute back in 2011 and I can honestly say it changed my career. What makes it special is that the current IOHA president Samantha Connell also shares that same passion for this type of learning as I do and its great that we have a strong working relationship to work together to develop this and deliver this event in June next year also alongside Megan Canright and Perry Logan. We cannot wait to see a full house for this and with the generous support of a number of people and organisations we are able to put this together. So watch out for the application window opening up over the Christmas period.

Kevin Bampton

CEO UPDATE



What a year!

As I approach the end of 2023, I look back on the year in history and consider that historians of the future will see this as one of national and international significance. It will be, I think, a turning point in history. For BOHS it was a year of celebration of 70 years. We used this to focus our efforts on raising the profile and visibility of occupational hygiene with lawmakers.

We continued to support the Westminster Parliament through advice to the All Party Parliamentary groups on Respiratory Health. For the first time, we were invited also to work with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Health and Safety, following our active engagement in the campaign to stop the repeal of Health and Safety Legislation under what is now the Retained EU Law Act.

BOHS was cited as an authority in the Lords debate on the Bill and behind the scenes, BOHS worked with senior Law Lords in the House of Lords, MPs and also directly with Ministers and the Cabinet Office. The result is that control over Health and Safety amendments under the REUL Act is firmly in the hands of HSE, not Ministers.

Our Parliamentary work is not over at all, with BOHS attending meetings in Parliament every week over the last month, as we push Occupational Hygiene and the

importance of our profession up the political agenda. I will end the year, dusting off my legislative drafting credentials, as we have been invited to draft a small but important amendment relating to the legislative control of asbestos in buildings.

BOHS's role as the formal regulator of occupational hygiene professionals seeking to enter the UK was formalised with the publication of the Register of Regulated Professions. BOHS is the designated authority under the Register of Regulated Professions Act 2022, formalising its legal status as the gatekeeper of national standards.

The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (which reports directly to Parliament and is the regulator of health professional registers) has recognised that occupational hygiene is a significant contributor to our nation's health. In the culmination of three years of effort by the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene, our forthcoming register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals will be the first Occupational Health profession to be formally accredited.

Registered qualified members will be encouraged to use the BOHS and Register logo on emails, websites and in marketing materials, bringing new status and visibility to the profession. More information on this is provided later in this issue.

Underpinning this has been the completion of our professional competency framework, which sets out our standards in one document, mapped to national educational standards frameworks. We have been starting significant work on revising the support for the Diploma in Occupational Hygiene and also in reviewing LEV qualifications and Asbestos Duty-Holder qualifications.

The Head Office team has also rebuilt our qualifications systems in tandem with this. Soon all qualifications information and membership information will be in one place and there will be some additional bonuses arising from their award-winning innovations. We hope that you will see the difference.

Sadly, after several years of our examiners not being able to approve new OHTA materials, OHTA suddenly announced the end of our partnership. The decision is probably the inevitable evolution of their charity, but it gave us barely enough time to ensure that candidates who needed resits could have the 12 months they were entitled to.

Thanks again to the hard work of our quals team and the Faculty, we have been able to go live with the M-series – a direct replacement for W examinations. These are substantially the same as W examinations, but without a tie to OHTA or their management costs. In the UK, this will allow us to start updating practice in line with scientific and technical developments and ensure that, as OHTA reframes the standards expected of their training, international candidates can demonstrate and obtain the same technical and scientific standards which would be expected anywhere in the world.

Perhaps symbolically, BOHS this year enjoys a Grant of Arms, which provides a new hallmark for our qualifications. The Coat of Arms, which adorns the cover of Exposure, will be on the new award

certificates from 2024. While members determined that a change of name of the Society was not something desired, the Coat of Arms serves both to recognise the legal basis of our awarding authority in terms of our Charter and is an effective means of replacing the BOHS reflective strip on our Certificates.

We have continued to contribute to consultations by the Government, fiercely advocating the standards and ethics that underpin occupational hygiene, as well as our values. Contributions on topics as diverse as the escalation of violence towards women and girls, the electrification of industry and the Government's Working Better consultation have garnered feedback and recognition that the Society sees Occupational Hygiene in a connected and relevant way.

Our policy publications have seen bodies such as IAAC, the TUC, Scotland's Cabinet Office and Labour Front Bench reaching out to engage with us, highlighting that occupational hygiene is beginning to appear to be understood to be relevant to contemporary issues. We have continued to support the Healthcare Professions through the COVID Inquiry, providing substantial support and authoring on their behalf a systematic analysis of the UK's preparedness for the pandemic. However, we are also providing support to a bid to better understand how to protect against future pandemics.

Alongside all of this, against the background of severe economic challenges, the Head Office team as continued to across the Board. Five Conferences were held by BOHS, while we provided support to more events and underpinned the work of other partner organisations. We have broadened the global impact of Breathe Freely, supported the launch of the Safety Alliance collaboration of safety groups, co-Chaired the Occupational Health Multi-disciplinary forum and presented nationally and

internationally at more events than ever before.

Our 21,000 regular social media followers have allowed our messaging to get over a quarter a million reads a month. The Annals of Workplace Exposure and Health saw 9 issues and increased in its impact factor yet again, carrying forward the impetus provided by COVID and allowing it to become more visible, referenced and valued than ever before. Underpinning this, we completed the A-Z of Technical Guidance, published an archive of historic guidance and started work on new areas of technical support documentation. Before the year ends, we are committed to see the finalised publication of Trevor Ogden's major work on the history of occupational hygiene, as well as providing financial support for the publication of Bob Rajan's unique contribution to Occupational Hygiene understanding.

As I sign off this column, I am aware that I have not mentioned everything done or achieved, the details of 4,000 learners awarded, hundreds of event participants impacted and, most important the thousands of hours of voluntary expertise that has been contributed by our occupational hygiene experts and thousands of pounds in membership subscriptions that enable us to help ensure many others will enjoy a healthier Christmas. Sending you Seasons best wishes from myself and the Head Office team.

Sarah Leeson

REGISTRAR UPDATE



It hardly seems possible that December has already arrived, the C word is being talked about and the evenings are drawing in.

It has been an exceptionally busy few months since the last Exposure and a lot has taken place within the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene.

I will kick off with the excellent news that the **Professional Standards Authority has approved the accreditation of the new Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals.**

Not only that, but our application had the least number of conditions and recommendations attached to a first application, which is credit to the phenomenal amount of preparation work which the FOH Committee and Head Office carried out.

I hope that Faculty Members amongst you will have attended the webinar on 8 December which will have been the first of the launch activities for the Register. More launch activities will be coming in the New Year.

I would like to thank all Faculty members who took the time to respond to the consultation sent out to them in October. Thanks also go to the head office staff who spent hours putting the letters into envelopes to be posted out. You know what, many of the 75 respondents

commented that they appreciated being sent a hard copy of the consultation. Overall responses were positive towards the Register and the BOHS Statement of Occupational Hygiene Competencies, with very useful feedback provided. Analysis of the responses is underway.

Many of you will have seen or received communications from BOHS and/or OHTA announcing that OHTA took the unexpected and sudden decision to terminate their awarding contract with BOHS, with effect from the end of 2024.

I won't go into the subsequent details here, but suffice to say, this caused a lot of extra work for both the FOH Committee and the BOHS Board to decide and approve actions to ensure we provided continuity to our learners and maintained a suitable quality route to qualification for UK hygienists, as well as meeting legal responsibilities associated with being an awarding body.

By the time you read this, the dust should have settled and the new M500 examinations will be available to ensure learners have an uninterrupted route through to the Certificate of Operational Competence in Occupational Hygiene.

The FOH Committee was able to meet for a F2F meeting at the end of November and we enjoyed a meal together the night before. News of the accreditation of the

register had recently been received and so it was an opportune occasion to celebrate with a glass of bubbly.

The final news I want to share with you relates to the newly approved BOHS Coat of Arms. The new M500 certificates will carry the **BOHS Coat of Arms**, as will other awards and certificates. I am particularly delighted with the Coat of Arms as it brings together two of my passions and activities for which I volunteer – BOHS and goats!! Yes goats. Every Tuesday morning you will find me volunteering at my local goat sanctuary. For those of you wondering why goats have anything to do with Occupational Hygiene, goat bladders were the first recorded protective equipment for workers. As well as this, they are symbolic of strength and persistence through diplomacy. I hope you like the design.

On that note, I will sign off by wishing you all a wonderful festive season and all the best for the New Year.

ACCREDITATION OF THE BOHS REGISTER OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE PROFESSIONALS BY THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AGENCY

We are thrilled to share a significant milestone achieved by the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene: the accreditation of our Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals by the [Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care](#). This accreditation recognizes our commitment to the highest standards in professional practice in the field of Occupational Hygiene.

The Professional Standards Authority, an independent body accountable to Parliament, has rigorously assessed our Register and confirmed that we have successfully met all the Standards for Accredited Registers. This achievement reflects the dedication and hard work of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene Committee, particularly the FOH Registrar Sarah Leeson and Deputy Registrar Duncan Smith and our dedicated Head Office Team.

FOH members as well as non-Faculty practitioners able to demonstrate they meet the expectations of registrants are eligible to be included on the Register. The accreditation grants Qualified Occupational Hygienists and Occupational Hygiene Technicians on the Register, including some Specialist members, the right to proudly display the PSA Accredited Registers Quality Mark and BOHS logo. This serves as a clear indicator to employers, service users, and the public that they are committed to maintaining robust professional and ethical standards.

Moreover, registration with an Accredited Register offers confidence to stakeholders, as they can trust that

practitioners within our Register have voluntarily committed to high-quality standards and ethical conduct.

We encourage and endorse the selection of practitioners who are registered with an Accredited Register, as recommended by the Professional Standards Authority. This accreditation not only elevates the stature of Occupational Hygiene but also contributes to fostering consistent standards of practice within associated professions and trades.

We are immensely proud of this achievement and the positive impact it will have on the recognition and standardization of our profession. Occupational Hygiene is the first occupation to have specific statutory accreditation out of the occupational health professions.

[More information about the Register can be found here.](#)

If you missed it, we held a webinar this month focussed on the Professional Register to provide an opportunity to learn the latest news and ask any questions. The webinar was led by Sarah Leeson, Registrar for the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene alongside Neil Grace from the HSE, Melanie Venables from the Professional Standards Authority and Alex Wilson, BOHS President. [Click here to view it.](#)

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact registers@bohs.org.

Air Quality & Dust Monitors

shawcity

Life-saving solutions

Fixed, portable & personal air quality monitoring & dust control

- > Continuous sampling for indoor and outdoor applications including atmospheric RCS
- > Measurements range from nanoparticles to total dust concentrations
- > Options for gas vapour and gravimetric sampling

01367 899419

solutions@shawcity.co.uk

ENSURING DUST SAFETY – WORKING WITH RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA



Life-saving solutions

Dust safety in the workplace is of paramount importance, especially when it comes to silica dust. Silica, a natural substance prevalent in various materials like rocks, sand, and clay, can transform into hazardous dust during industrial processes. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) provides essential guidelines to ensure compliance with regulations and control workplace exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust (RCS). Complying with these guidelines is a vital step in safeguarding employee health and preventing lung disease.



The HSE estimates that about 13,000 deaths each year are linked to past exposure to dust and chemicals at work. Silica is associated with approximately 4,000 deaths annually from COPD and around 500 UK construction workers die from silicosis each year.

1. Prevention of Lung Disease: A Priority

Employers need to take responsibility for preventing lung diseases caused by exposure to silica dust. This can be achieved by implementing measures that control and minimize dust generation. Techniques such as water suppression and local ventilation systems are effective in reducing airborne dust particles and minimising the risk of dust-related lung diseases. Investing in personal or deployed dust monitors can help raise awareness of immediate exposure or "events" that release more dust, and this can be a game-changer in protecting workers' health. Being proactive in preventing dust not only protects employees but also ensures compliance with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH).

(Brief overview of COSHH here).

2. Risk Assessment: Identifying Sources of Exposure

Conducting a thorough risk assessment is a cornerstone of silica dust management. Employers must identify potential sources of silica dust exposure within the workplace and evaluate associated risks.

Factors such as the nature of work, materials used, and the duration of exposure are integral to this assessment. Recognising these risk factors is vital for devising effective control measures.

3. Control Measures: Reducing Exposure

Once risks have been assessed, it is incumbent on employers to implement control measures that reduce exposure to silica dust. These measures may encompass the adoption of alternative materials or processes that generate less dust, the provision of suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE), the Use of personal and area dust detection monitors, and the promotion of workplace hygiene practices.

4. Training and Information: Employee Awareness

Ensuring that employees are well informed about the risks associated with silica dust exposure is paramount. Employers should provide appropriate training and information, educating workers about the hazards of dust inhalation and the control measures in place to mitigate these risks. This includes instruction on the correct use of RPE and other protective measures. Employee awareness is crucial for creating a safe work environment and achieving compliance with HSE guidelines.

5. Potential Future developments for RCS regulations

Concern has been growing regarding how the UK responds to the risk of silica dust, leading to discussions between the government and industry. The APPG Silicosis Report 01-23 offers key clinical and regulatory recommendations for enhancing workplace safety related to silica dust. Clinically, it proposes:

Declaring silicosis as a notifiable disease

Establishing accessible RCS exposure records

Introducing occupational health services in GP surgeries.

On the regulatory side, it advocates for:

Mandatory silica risk education

An industry awareness campaign

Lowering the WEL (Workplace Exposure Limit) for silica.

Ensuring dust safety, particularly in managing silica dust, is not just a legal requirement; it's a moral obligation for employers. Adhering to the guidelines laid out by the HSE is crucial for creating safer workplaces and mitigating the long-term health effects of dust inhalation.

Prioritising prevention, conducting risk assessments, implementing effective control measures, providing education and training, and, when necessary, engaging in health surveillance all collectively contribute to dust safety and employee well-being.

RCS monitoring solutions from Shawcity

Shawcity offers a wide selection of online dust detection and air quality instruments from intricate fixed systems to portable and personal monitors.

The latest addition to Shawcity's instrumentation portfolio includes the Trolex Air XS real-time Silica dust monitor that measures airborne RCS content using innovative optical refraction technology. As the AIR XS processes and analyses particulate data, an adaptive algorithm is used to calculate and identify the average level of RCS from the overall particle count, all viewable on the instrument display or on the online software.



The device can be wall mounted or sit on a tripod, allowing flexible deployment within the workplace.

For more information or to request a free demonstration, please contact the team on solutions@shawcity.co.uk or 01367 899419.



Life-saving solutions

Jonathan Grant

FAAM REGISTRAR UPDATE



The FAAM Committee ends this year with a trip to Parliament, as guests of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Health and Safety meeting on Asbestos.

The recent death of Mavis Nye highlights that the urgency of the matter has not gone away. Mavis was such a formidable force of nature, hugely respected and widely known. The cruelty of her battle with the illness caused by asbestos was very visible. Yet she is one of thousands to lose their lives to this. Her sad loss has, in many ways, brought asbestos organisations closer together.

FAAM Committee members do much more than attend events to advocate for change. Feedback from FAAM is reflected in subtle, but important changes to HSE guidance recently published. Our input will hopefully see an amendment tabled to the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill, currently before Parliament. Meanwhile, FAAM continues to look for solutions to enable the technical and practical control of asbestos. In the New Year, we anticipate being able to share progress on these matter in more detail.

We are involved in reviewing the Blue Book methodology on soil analysis, as well as having undertaken testing of new gel-cutting methods to reduce exposure risk. Our joint training with contractors this year

looks set to continue and develop in the New Year, aimed at making the process of clearance more effective and less pressured.

Next year, our commitment to professional standards and competence will be seen reflected in work to develop a comprehensive competence framework for those in assessment and management of asbestos. This will be an undertaking with international dimensions and is highly relevant at a time when Europe and Australia look to set professional standards for competence and training. Members will be welcome to engage with this process which should inform education and training institutions. Alongside this, we aim to develop a more comprehensive CPD process. FAAM Committee has also agreed to implement the following:

1. In relation to the duty holder magazine to name it: Asbestos Aware, and to include a science-based section in the magazine. The pilot will be run in October 2023.
2. For the head office governance team to review the governance of representation including how to ensure reporting and accountability for members of the committee representing FAAM.
3. For the head office governance team to review how FAAM engage more of the

membership in the representation process.

4. To work with stakeholders to put together a position paper to support mandatory accreditation for surveying and its benefits to HSE.

5. To introduce Platinum Membership for FAAM. This allows a company to gain discount on membership where they pay for five members or more and this gives them additional benefits such as discounts on conferences.

Next year will be a busy year for FAAM and we welcome engagement from all members to help us make a difference. To all of you who support FAAM through membership, engagement, volunteering and feedback, I would like to send my warmest Seasonal Greetings. See you in the New Year!

Jonathan

Rachael Jones

ANNALS UPDATE

ALGORITHMS AND OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE



I am writing this from Washington, D.C., USA where I am attending the conference of the Society for Risk Analysis.

There is a lot of discussion at this meeting about the positive and negative aspects of machine learning and artificial intelligence in risk analysis. The examples are drawn from a wide variety of disciplines and context, but not many are related to occupational hygiene. The development and application of these methods is not my area of expertise, but I must admit that my understanding of how these methods are being integrated into occupational hygiene practice or creating new hazards for workers remains fuzzy, perhaps because I have gained information mostly through anecdotes and “think pieces”. Few articles about this topic have been submitted to the Annals. I encourage readers to submit research articles, short communications of case studies or letters about how algorithms have or might impact workplace exposures and health, or have been or can be used in occupational hygiene research and practice.

In honor of the 70th anniversary of BOHS, members of the Editorial Board prepared three commentaries that reflect upon trends in occupational hygiene (and the Annals) related to biostatistics methods (<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxad042>) and the representation of sex and

gender (<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxad063>); and look forward to the future of occupational exposure science (<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxad052>). A few other articles that I want to highlight that have been recently published in the Annals include:

“A deep dive into selected work sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic and the “living with COVID” phase: understanding similarities and differences in practice, perceptions, and preparedness” by Coleman et al. (<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxad053>).

Different workplaces and industrial sectors faced different challenges in controlling the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study collated findings from 8 industrial sectors (between 2020 and 2022) and revisited 6 of these during the “living with COVID” pandemic phase (Autumn 2022) to better understand risks and responses to COVID-19 at the organizational and sectoral level. Understanding similarities and differences in practice, perceptions, and preparedness longitudinally across sectors is imperative to help continue short-term recovery and inform preparations for future health emergencies.

“Hybrid office work in women and men: do directly measured physical behaviors differ between days working from home and days working at the office?” by Wahlström et al.

{<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxad057>}

With increased hybrid work, it is important to understand activity patterns and their implications for work organization policies. This study found that office workers spent more time in bed and were sitting more during their time awake on days working from home compared to days working at the office. The distribution of sitting time between short, moderate, and long uninterrupted bouts did not differ between work locations. Sitting time was higher during working days compared to non-working days and men sat more than women.

“Validation of krypton as a new tracer gas for the standardization tests of collective and individual protection systems” by Cabaset et al. {

<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxad071>}

This article provides a technical solution to a burning issue in the field of industrial hygiene and indoor air quality. It demonstrates the potential of krypton associated with a mass spectrometer to replace sulfur hexafluoride as a tracer for standardization tests of collective and individual protection systems.

vent-tech

Industrial environment control



Find out why we're one of the
**UK's leading experts in
dust and fume extraction**

Examinations & Qualifications provided by the BOHS



Training Providers

Vent-Tech provides courses held by Managing Director Adrian Sims

We aim to make you proficient in LEV systems

Providing methodology, theoretical knowledge, and practical skills

We are also in the unique position of being able to provide practical insight based on our current real-world experience

- P600** - Methods for Testing the Performance of LEV Systems
- P601** - Thorough Examination and Testing of LEV Systems
- P602** - Basic Design Principles of LEV Systems
- P603** - Control of Hazardous Substances - PPE
- P604** - Performance Evaluation and Management of LEV Systems

Upcoming course dates for 2024:

January:

- P602 - 22nd-25th January 2024 @Bristol
- P603 - 25th - 26th January 2024 @Bristol

February:

- P600 - 12th February 2024 @Bristol
- P601 - 13th-16th February 2024 @Bristol

March:

- P600 - 25th March 2024 @Sheffield
- P601 - 26th-29th March 2024 @Sheffield

April:

- P604 - 22nd -25th April 2024 @Bristol

*All courses can also be attended online



Contact

 enquiries@vent-tech.co.uk

 0117 964 7945



BOHS AWARDS



**SUBMISSIONS
OPENING JAN 2024**



PETER ISAAC AWARD

“Working for a Healthier Workplace” is the slogan of this prestigious award, launched for the BOHS Golden Jubilee in 2003. It recognises an outstanding initiative contributing to the reduction of ill health at work.

THOMAS BEDFORD MEDAL

Introduced in 1978 and recognised as our Society’s prime honour, the Thomas Bedford medal is awarded annually to mark outstanding contributions of an individual to the improvement of worker health protection.

TED KING AND DAVID HICKISH AWARD

Our twin awards, Ted King Award and David Hickish Award, celebrate the best candidates of the year who have achieved, respectively, the BOHS Certificate of Operational Competence in Occupational Hygiene and the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene.

EARLY CAREER OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENIST AWARD

Sponsored by Casella, the annual Early Career Occupational Hygienist Award, previously known as the 3M Young Hygienist Award, aims to recognise talent and stimulate ongoing professional development in occupational hygiene.

BOHS AWARDS



**SUBMISSIONS
OPENING JAN 2024**



PETER HEWITT AWARD

This Award
Commemorates a
leading member of BOHS
and innovator in the field
of worker health
protection and his
continued commitment
to international sharing
of good practice and
learning in the field.

TREVOR OGDEN AWARD

Introduced in 2013 to
celebrate 60 years of BOHS
and in recognition of a Past
President of ours, Trevor
Ogden, the Trevor Ogden
Award recognises the
outstanding voluntary
contribution to BOHS and
the profession of
occupational hygiene.

[FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND KEEP
AN EYE ON YOUR EMAIL INBOX TO FIND
OUT WHEN WE OPEN SUBMISSIONS
EARLY NEXT YEAR.**

The next generation of air sampling

Vortex3 High Flow Air Sampling Pump with improved run time, for airborne contaminants including Asbestos.

- ✓ High-flow rate (5 - 12 L/min)
- ✓ Long battery life (4 hours at 12L/min)
- ✓ Impressive back pressure capability
- ✓ Compatible with the Airwave App
- ✓ Remote monitoring
- ✓ Interlocking mechanism enabling multiple pumps to be carried at once.

info@casellasolutions.com

CASELLA 

A DIVISION OF TSI

www.casellasolutions.com



IMPORTANT CHANGES IN QUALIFICATIONS FOR OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS IN THE UK

BOHS has recently announced the launch of new UK M-series qualifications. These are replacing W500 qualifications as the main route to professional recognition in the UK as of January 1st, 2024.

The examinations will be in identical short answer format and cover the same material as the current W500 examinations but will be in the exclusive control of the BOHS. BOHS will only run resit examinations for W500 candidates through 2024, concluding all awarding for OHTA at the end of that year. It will continue with recognition of its own M500 awards as part of the pathway towards the Certificate in Operational Competence in Occupational Hygiene which is designed to demonstrate competence to practice Occupational Hygiene in the UK.

The new examinations are now available to book via training partners. The rebranded syllabi and materials are on the [BOHS website](#). M modules will be available in the UK and internationally.

BOHS will no longer be awarding qualifications for OHTA or endorse their courses and training materials. OHTA will continue to provide training materials and test certificates which their training providers will be required to use.

BOHS will be issuing updated study support materials in the New Year.

As of 1st January 2024, BOHS examinations and awards will change their names as follows:

W201 becomes **M200** (Basic Principles in Occupational Hygiene)

W501 becomes **M501** (Measurement of Hazardous Substances)

W502 becomes **M502** (Thermal Environment)

W503 becomes **M503** (Noise – Measurement and Its Effects)

W504 becomes **M504** (Asbestos and Other Fibres)

W505 becomes **M505** (Control of Hazardous Substances)

W506 becomes **M506** (Ergonomics Essentials, including Manual Handling and DSE)

W507 becomes **M507** (Health Effects of Hazardous Substances)

Further information for learners affected by the change can be found [here](#).

Please contact qualifications@bohs.org for any queries or comments.



IOHA²⁰²⁴ Dublin

Protecting Workers From Health Hazards: Advancing in This Changing World

The Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) are privileged to jointly host the 13th IOHA International Scientific Conference.

The conference aims to promote occupational hygiene and worker health protection by the minimisation of worker exposure to hazardous agents globally through:

- Plenary sessions
- Keynote lectures
- Parallel talks
- Workshops
- Poster presentations
- And many networking opportunities and social functions.

WHERE?

Aviva Stadium
Lansdowne Road
Dublin 4
Ireland
D04 K5F9

WHEN?

09 - 13 June 2024



FIND OUT
MORE HERE

THE HSW ACT NEEDS TO BE UPDATED

By John Cherrie

When I think back to my early work life, I marvel at how much things have changed. During the 1970s I visited coke works, foundries and many other industrial sites where the levels of pollutants were atrocious. Clearly, we did not have personal computers or mobile phones to help us in our tasks, and any thoughts about artificial intelligence were just science fiction. The pattern of work has also changed since then with more people employed part-time, more women in the workforce and many people working in precarious jobs. Most people's working conditions have improved hugely over the last 50-years.

In his last CEO Column, Kevin suggested that the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSW Act), which was introduced in 1974, should be updated because of a shift in the concerns in the workplace; he argued that it's no longer the paternalistic employer who is solely responsible for health at work, the workers have taken ownership of their own health and want to have more control over what affects their health. He argues that workers should have access to occupational exposure information relevant to them and the right to have an independent competent professional review data on the identification, recognition and control of exposure.

I don't disagree with Kevin's analysis, but I think that if he is correct that workers want 'control' then we need a radical overhaul of the Act. Something that will make it fit for the next 50 years and the changes in the workplace that might come during that time.

In the past we were often trying to control exposures and prevent diseases that were specific to work and workers. Think about coal workers' pneumoconiosis or lead poisoning, these are diseases that almost always occur in people working with these workplace agents and there aren't other causes of the disease.

However, today we are more likely to be faced with agents that are just one of many causes of the disease: for example, asthma or lung cancer. In addition, occupational exposures are lower than in the past and so the risk from occupational exposure may be quite comparable with many environmental or lifestyle cause of these diseases.

The issue of prevention becomes more complicated when dealing with health issues where we are uncertain of how work really affects disease risk, for example in the case of stress that is attributed to work. We have all become familiar with the exposome concept, where the determinant of an individual's disease risk is the summation of all their exposures from conception to diagnosis or death – their exposome – along with their genome.

It seems logical that we should have a wider concern for disease prevention in the workplace and not just focus on the risks that arise from work. This whole approach has been pioneered in the USA by NIOSH, who instigated the Total Worker Health (TWH) programme back in 2011 to integrate worker health protection and health promotion. There are numerous scientific publications describing the

success of this initiative along with a 'handbook' describing the five key elements of a TWH programme [1]:

- Demonstrate leadership commitment to worker safety and health at all levels of the organisation;
- Design work to eliminate or reduce safety and health hazards and promote worker well-being;
- Promote and support worker engagement throughout programme design and implementation;
- Ensure confidentiality and privacy of workers;
- Integrate relevant systems to advance worker well-being.

It is suggested that 'TWH science aims to prepare employers and workers to take on the challenges of a rapidly evolving economy, innovative but demanding technologies, and new employment patterns, while helping workers maintain a significant voice and influence on these changes. Organisations that empower and nurture the safest and healthiest workers will be the ones most likely to succeed over the long-term.' [2].

NIOSH funds ten Centers of Excellence in universities across the USA, that are involved in TWH research and practice, to build the scientific evidence base and provide solutions for industry. In general, Europe lags the USA in advocating health promotion in the workplace, and the positive promotion of health in workplaces here is rare [3].

Finland and Sweden have the best record in promoting healthy physical activity, with around three quarters of establishments having some programme, and in Finland and Romania where about half promote healthy eating. The sad thing is that it is legislative requirements that drive most organisations to deliver health and safety and health promotion, and in the EU and Britain there is a lack of legal requirements for workplace health promotion.

Our government has been consulting on 'Occupational Health: Working Better' to gather views on proposals aimed at increasing employer use of occupational health services [4].

The plan is to increase provision and access to occupational health services, which could result in improvements in the health of workers, but it would not be a legal requirement for employers, and it would not necessarily have any health promotion component. What we really need is a robust conversation about how the HSW Act should be updated for the future, but I think that incorporating health promotion into our health and safety legislation could have an important impact. We need to find a better way of allowing workers to take more control of their own health. We need legislation that encourages collaborative working and is designed to address the issues in modern workplaces. This could help improve the health of working people and reduce health inequalities. I support the initiative from Kevin to revitalise the HSW Act and encourage BOHS to take up the challenge.

References

1. NIOSH. (2016) Fundamentals of total worker health approaches: essential elements for advancing worker safety, health, and well-being. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-112.
2. L. Casey Chosewood and Emily Kirby. (2022) Total Worker Health Program Readies NIOSH for Next 50 Years. NIOSH TWH Blog, Posted on January 18, 2022. <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2022/01/18/twh-50th/>
3. Verra SE, Benzerga A, Jiao B, Ruggeri K. (2019) Health Promotion at Work: A Comparison of Policy and Practice Across Europe. *Saf Health Work*; 10: 21-29.
4. Department for Work and Pensions. (2023) Occupational Health: Working Better
Published 20 July 2023.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/occupational-health-working-better>

WORKSHOP ON GENERAL AND LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION

The workshop 'General and Local Exhaust Ventilation', organized by the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) in collaboration with Exposure Science at the University of Galway, was delivered in person in Galway on the 8th of November. It focused on improving indoor air quality and the appropriate use of general and local exhaust ventilation within the workplace. Aptly occurring on 'World Ventil8 Day', a day which aims to raise awareness of the importance of ventilation as a crucial part of enabling health and wellbeing of people. Dr Marie Coggins, the University of Galway welcomed everyone to the University and the workshop, and Mr. Alan Lambe (Head of Compliance, University of Galway) and Ms. Shara Smith, President of the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and inspector with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), officially opened the workshop.

The first presentation of the day was delivered by Mr. Darren Arkins, Senior Inspector, HSA Occupational Health Division. Darren introduced the recently published HSA Code of Practice for Indoor Air Quality (IAQ). The first guidance document of its kind worldwide, it gives an overview of important aspects of IAQ in a straightforward and practical manner to ensure its uptake into workplaces. Darren also announced that the BeSMART risk assessment tool has a new feature for the assessment of indoor air quality and is available for over 300 business types. [The Code of Practice is freely available here.](#)

Simon Jones, Founder of Air Quality Matters, a Ventilation and air quality consultancy, with nearly 20 years of

experience in the Housing, Construction, and Building Services Sector, outlined the practical implications of indoor air quality on workplaces. Simon described how air quality issues are not a new or emerging hazard and are the single largest environmental risk to human health. He also highlighted that good air quality can also improve worker productivity and job satisfaction, having direct positive impacts on workplaces.

Niek-Jan Bink, director and co-owner of ACIN Instrumenten, from the Netherlands, is an air flow measurement expert and along with Justin Conway, Operations Director, Aereco Ltd, highlighted the importance of evaluating and ensuring good air quality and appropriate ventilation. Especially as we spend 90% of our time indoors and indoor air can be up to 50 times more polluted than outdoor air. They described the importance of achieving minimum air flow rates within homes and demonstrated equipment that can be used to test for flow rates and air tightness.

Adam Collison, PhD candidate within the School of Natural Sciences, gave an overview of the BENEFIT project on assessing indoor environment quality in Irish classrooms and offices. The study involves evaluating indoor air quality pre and post retrofitting for energy efficiency, to determine the potential impact on air quality. He will be collecting air quality data (i.e., PM/CO2/thermal comfort) in schools and offices across the country. Further information on the study and to participate can be found at: www.universityofgalway.ie/benefit/.

Mike Slater of the University of Manchester, a Chartered Occupational Hygienist and former President of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), presented on the Occupational Hygienist's perspective on evaluating local exhaust ventilation (LEV). The presentation described the holistic nature of evaluating work exposures and how these assessments require reviewing all aspects of ventilation, including the awareness of workers on work hazard exposures and protecting against them. The importance of specifications and design of LEV, and that they are implemented and used appropriately once installed and maintained was also outlined.

The second half of the workshop involved discussions and practical demonstrations of the types of ventilation systems required for differing workplaces and practices. Throughout this session, each of the speakers gave visual graphics of good and poorly installed or used ventilation systems and flagged that this is an area of importance that can often be overlooked.

Paul Lacey, of P&M LEV Specialists Ltd, has over 26 years of experience designing, installing, testing and maintaining LEV systems nationwide. Paul described the importance of LEV systems, the different elements that have to be considered, and the importance of elements such as the capture zone, capture and dust velocities, and training for employees to ensure the most efficient use of LEV and to protect against workplace hazards. Paul gave a visual smoke test to highlight the capture zone.

Thomas Molsen, CEO of GEOVENT A/S, furthered this conversation by highlighting that not only is this an issue due to people dying every year due to exposure to harmful and toxic particles but is also an obligation under the United Nation Sustainability Goals, to ensure good health

and well-being, for decent work and responsible consumption and production. He showed how this is an evolving field with new workplaces requiring these services including the need for larger systems and for niche workplaces (e.g., beauty salons/museums).

David Flanagan and Fearghus O'Rourke of Medtronic Galway wrapped up the day with an excellent overview of the range of ventilation technologies used within the Medtronic Manufacturing sites in Galway. The presentation focused on the various work activities that require mechanical ventilation, and an overview of their programmes of inspection, testing and maintenance.

The workshop was very well attended, with over 90 delegates from Ireland and abroad, it was both engaging and interactive with lots of interesting discussion and practical experience shared between delegates and speakers. This important area, which is ever growing and evolving, was thoroughly evaluated and perspectives from regulatory, occupational hygiene and ventilation experts were embedded within the workshop. Further information and workshop materials can be found at the OHSI website: <https://www.ohireland.org/>.

During the seminar, the OHSI presented honorary OHSI membership to Geraldine Lenehan. This was to acknowledge Geraldine's significant contribution to occupational hygiene in Ireland over her career. Geraldine was a member of the OHSI council when the society was established in 1986.



BOHS COAT OF ARMS

This Issue of Exposure carries on its cover the new BOHS Coat of Arms, granted by the College of Arms in our 70th Year. It will become a feature of certificates and awards of the Society. It provides what is hoped is a pleasing and distinctive replacement for the foil logo, but also additional assurance and protection against counterfeiting.

By way of explanation, each element of the design, produced in association with the College of Arms, as a distinct meaning.

The key colours include gold (on the goats and snakes), indicating generosity and the elevation of the mind and blue (on the mantle and cups) indicating loyalty.

On the shield, there are three “cups of Hygeia,” with the associated snakes tasting. They represent physical, chemical and biological hazards.

In the background, the college inserted Ermine, denoting our Charter status.

The supporters are goats, referencing Pliny the Elder’s use of goat bladders as RPE, but also symbolising in heraldic terms, strength and persistence through diplomacy.



On the crest, is another goat, topped with a canary and holding a miners lamp, denoting a precautionary approach.

The motto was proposed at the first ever meeting of BOHS, referencing Vergil, perhaps most appropriately translated by Dryden as happy is the person, “who, studying Nature’s Laws, / Thro’ known Effects can trace the secret Cause” (The works of Virgil, 1697).

The Coat of Arms will replace the BOHS logo on certificates from 2023. We will be exploring other uses for awards and recognition in coming months, including for replacement certificates and awards. While the Coat of Arms will be reserved for matters pertaining to our Chartered Status, we are really keen to hear your ideas, suggestions and requests for uses other than educational awards and formal recognition by the Society in awards and Chartership.

Members of Faculty will also be able to use the PSA logo for professional communications and in respect of some corporate activity.

CHECK IT OUT!

HCA

UK
HEARING
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

1) Pick it - Use the hearing protection (HP) manufacturer's data to choose the right HP. HP must reduce noise at ear to below 87 dB(A) and not below 70 dB(A).



Must be suitable & adequate!

2) Test it - Fit testing your HP isn't required by law but it is a helpful way to show if that particular HP is suitable for you.



Separate



Integrated

3) Check it - Follow the HP manufacturer's instructions and fit your HP correctly. A good fit each time is essential. Look at these quick and easy ways to check that your HP is fitted properly:

Hum

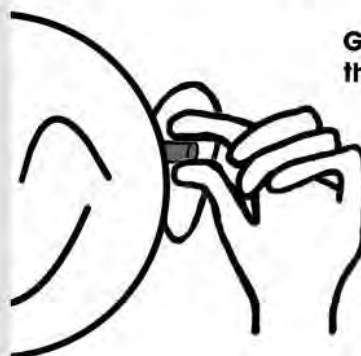


If one ear is sealed properly, your voice will seem louder in that ear.



If both ears are sealed properly, your voice will sound like it is in the centre of your head.

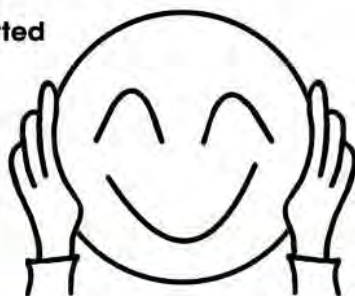
Tug



Gently tug on the end of the plug/cord. If there is a resistance and you feel a gentle suction on the eardrum then you have achieved a good seal! Be careful not to dislodge it.

Cup

With both earplugs inserted, stand in a noisy environment. Cup both hands over your ears. With well-fitted earplugs, the noise level should not seem significantly different. A perceptible difference means it isn't fitted well enough.



Circle

Once you've placed your earcups over your ears and adjusted the headband, run your finger along the outside of the seal all the way around. There shouldn't be anything interfering with a firm seal between your head and the cups, like glasses or earrings.



4) Wear it - Did you know, even if you wear your HP for the majority of the work day, not wearing your HP for only a few minutes will significantly reduce your protection? Wear your HP all of the time!



5) Maintain it - Is your ear cup seal damaged? Replace it. Is your reusable HP dirty? Clean it. Is the tension on the headband reduced? Replace it. Are your earplugs not soft, pliable & clean? Replace them. A build up of ear wax? Take care of it.

ETHICS OF REAL-TIME MONITORING

Written by **John Padgham**, based on the work of **Evans, Kloke & Jahn (2023)** **Evans, Kloke & Jahn (2023) Review of ethics for occupational hygiene hazard monitoring surveys using sensors. Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene. DOI 10.1080/15459624.2023.2247018.**

Prevalence of Real-Time

It's been nearly 10 years since NIOSH's EVADE software made it far easier to integrate video and sound recordings into the real-time data. And, while not yet common in the workplace, researchers have also begun incorporating precise location data into exposure assessments. It is arguable that the advantages of real-time over conventional sampling methods is limited without collecting this secondary data.

Knowing that there are short-term elevated exposures is nice; knowing exactly where and how the elevated exposure happened is even better. Improved assessments, training, expenditure justification to management... there are a mountain of benefits of real-time.

This is not to discount the value of traditional monitoring (we can have that discussion another day), but real-time technology is only getting more advanced and more popular, as is the collection of more and more detailed supporting information, like video.

The Question

What inherent rights to privacy do / should workers have in the workplace during exposure assessments, even if the data is purely used with good intentions? What protections should be in place to prevent the misuse, intentional or not, of this data? "Hygiene work is undertaken for good reasons to protect the health and well-being of employees. However, this does not negate the need for thoughtful ethical

study design in planning exposure monitoring surveys."

Most research is unsurprisingly focused on the technical development of real-time sensor technology rather than ethical deployment. However, a review was performed by Evans et al. detailing what has previously been found on concerns of workers, impacts of not addressing these concerns, and a proposal of a checklist on how to manage privacy.

The Problems

Workers were found to be distrustful of a business if they weren't provided a clear explanation of what the assessment was, or how the information was to be used. You may wonder, 'who doesn't explain what's happening?' but it's apparently rather common. Two-thirds of companies surveyed did not explain to their staff why they were deploying sensors. It's probably unsurprising then that workers had a fear that the information collected could be used to punish unproductive workers or discriminate against at-risk workers. This isn't workers being paranoid; a different study found the majority of surveyed businesses had often mishandled what was considered personal information.

If you asked most hygienists, whether consultants or in house professionals, they would probably know enough sensitive information to get both employees and employers in a lot of strife. Often completely unrelated to OH, anyone trying to deeply understand a workplace will find "something". But unless the information

can be used to prevent disease, sharing is of little value to a hygienist.

“At all stages, the hygienist is accountable for the data collection process.”

There are legal obligations in most jurisdictions to manage personal information. Medical information being the most developed example. But where the line is when it comes to exposure assessment is not so clear. Ethical guidelines published by industry bodies likewise usually do not specifically detail real-time data considerations. Given that a hygienist is only interested in improving workplace conditions, it would seem best to treat any and all information about a worker or potentially identifiable information about them as private. The article review proposes a few areas for consideration:

Informed consent

All participants of exposure monitoring should be informed on what information is being collected, how it will be used, why the assessment is taking place, and what their rights are in regards to privacy. They should be allowed to raise concerns and have these properly addressed. Then, they should be given the option to participate or not.

Data collection

The hygienist should be clear and intentional about what information is being collected. Only information that is directly relevant to the assessment should be collected. Care should be taken to avoid collecting unrelated information or data outside of the workplace and work hours.

Data usage

The hygienist should take measures to use the information only for the benefit of workers, and actively prevent the misuse of collected information (e.g. for punishment for productivity etc). This is heavily related to security:

Data security

All private information should be securely stored to prevent unnecessary access. Identifiable information should not be shared, and anonymised information should only be shared when there is an objective benefit to sharing (or if a legal requirement exists). Obviously, you would still need to share the information you have collected to achieve an outcome, but the point is to be mindful of what type of information, and how that information is communicated to avoid discrimination.

Exceptions?

Are there any situations where privacy described by the review should be breached? Negligent behaviour, for example, or would this jeopardise the integrity for future assessments?