



Health & Safety Courses

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Birchtree Consultants can provide training in safety management for staff at all levels of your organisation; we specialise in health & safety training for the research environment.

General training in health and safety management is often unhelpful in the context of scientific research. Whilst regulations have to be observed in all workplaces, guidance is usually based on industrial situations which may be very different from those in a research laboratory or field site. For example, an industry is likely to use a few substances in large quantity whereas laboratories might use many more substances but in very small amounts. Procedures in industry may stay largely unchanged over long periods whereas scientific research will, by definition, be opening up new procedures regularly.

We have wide experience in the research environment and extensive experience in training scientific management in the requirements of health and safety. We specialise in streamlining the risk assessment systems to enable scientists to work safely with focused, relevant risk management.

Birchtree Consultants have developed a series of courses based on HSG 65 - Successful Health and Safety Management.

- **Safety for Directors in a Research Environment**, and
- **Safety Management in a Research Environment**

are accredited by IOSH and are of one and, two and a half days duration respectively.

- **Safety Responsibilities for staff in a Research Environment**, and
- **Risk Management for staff in a Research Environment**

are not accredited and are each of four hours duration.

Birchtree Consultants have developed two further courses entitled:

- **Manual handling awareness**
- **COSHH Assessment in a Research Environment**

Birchtree Consultants are also specialists in chemical risk assessment and safety. We have more than 60 years combined experience in the hazard and risk assessment of chemicals for national and international programmes. We can provide practical professional advice on the assessment and safe use of chemicals in the workplace and compliance with regulations, whether you use few or many substances, small or larger amounts.

Safety for Directors in a Research Environment

(Duration 1 day)

Who should attend

Senior staff in executive positions.

Aims

Health and safety is an integral part of the business performance of any organisation. It requires the application of the same management principles as other aspects of performance such as quality and productivity. Ultimate responsibility for occupational health and safety rests with top management; this is a fundamental principal of health and safety law and is made explicit in the policy statements of most organisations.

This course aims to improve the occupational health and safety performance of organisations by providing top managers with an understanding of how the management of occupational health and safety may be integrated with the management of other aspects of business performance, in order to:

- minimise the risk to employees and others;
- improve performance; and
- maintain a responsible image within society.

The course will outline current best practice in the management of health and safety.

Objectives

On completion of the course, delegates will:

- appreciate the fact that health and safety is a main line management function, emanating from top of management and descending through the layers
- understand the importance of staff participation and the passage of information up the management chain
- understand the financial implications of workplace accidents and ill health
- be aware of current legislation, in particular the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992
- be aware of the penalties which may be imposed for breaches of legislation, including the concept of corporate manslaughter
- be aware of the documentation and procedures an organisation is required to maintain in order to satisfy legal requirements
- understand the importance of adopting a proactive as well as a reactive approach to measuring health and safety performance
- be aware of the shift from simple compliance with proscriptive laws to the requirement for employers to assess and control risks

- appreciate the principles of risk assessment, the legal requirements and the strategy needed to ensure that requirements are met
- appreciate the duty to appoint competent persons to advise and assist in carrying out health and safety functions

Safety Management in a Research Environment

(Duration 2½ days)

Who should attend

Staff involved in project management and/or who have major responsibilities for risk management.

Staff who may not be directly involved in research projects but whose roles may influence the effective operation of such projects.

Aims

To introduce the concept of a Safety Management System, including the element of risk assessment/risk management in such a system.

Objectives

On completion of the course, delegates will be able to:

- identify Health and Safety Legislation and to describe Law as applicable to Health and Safety
- identify their own enforcing authority and their associated powers
- prepare for Health and Safety Audit
- describe the principles of accident causation and prevention
- describe the elements of active and reactive monitoring
- carry out hazard identification and apply risk management techniques

Safety Responsibilities for staff in a Research Environment

(Duration 4 hours)

Who should attend

This course is intended for those staff whose roles would not qualify for Safety for Directors in a Research Environment or Safety Management in a Research Environment.

Aims

To advise staff on their legal responsibilities relating to Health and Safety, and how their Safety Management System operates.

Objectives

On completion of the course, delegates will be able to:

- identify Health and Safety Legislation and its relevance to staff
- identify the relevant elements of their Safety Management System

Risk Management for staff in a Research Environment

(Duration 4 hours)

Who should attend

This course is intended for those who have management responsibilities for staff in a Research Environment and who also have input into risk assessment.

Aims

To introduce the principles of Risk Management and to detail the procedures for general risk assessment

Objectives

On completion of the course, delegates will be able to carry out hazard identification and apply risk management techniques.

Manual Handling awareness

(Duration 3 hours)

Who should attend

All staff where manual handling may be an issue.

Aims

To identify the requirements of the Manual Handling Regulations.

Objectives

On completion of the course, delegates will be able to:

- understand the requirements of the Manual Handling Regulations
- identify manual handling issues
- understand the requirements of the “Base Movement”
- re-assess their existing manual handling arrangements

COSHH Assessment in a Research Environment

(Duration 4 hours)

Who should attend

All staff involved in COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) assessment.

Aims

To identify the requirements of the COSHH regulations and the methodology for compliance proposed by HSE.

Objectives

On completion of the course, delegates will be able to:

- carry out COSHH assessment using a COSHH Database

The Consultants

- Dr Stuart Dobson OBE CMIOSH: 30 years experience in the hazard and risk assessment of chemicals; served on Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances and the UK Chemical Stakeholder Forum; specialising in all aspects of risk assessment and management
- Colin Hankinson CMIOSH: 20 years experience in health and safety advice, auditing and training; specialising in health and safety law and management systems
- Paul Howe Tech IOSH: 25 years experience in the hazard and risk assessment of chemicals; specialising in environmental risk assessment and the safe use, storage and disposal of chemicals

For more details please go to www.birchtree.uk.com