This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, gives details of the latest Health and Safety regulations which could impact on your daily working practices...

Get the most from your education

Don't lose out

Following an extensive consultation process between the Education and Training Department and BIGGA Regions and Sections on the content of training courses, their location, their cost and when they should run, approximately 50% of Sections requested that we run a range of one and two day courses. Details of courses and application forms were sent out with the October edition of Greenkeeper.

The initiative comes soon after Home Office needs to introduce a new offence of corporate killing. The targets are:
- To reduce the number of working days lost from work related injury and ill health by 30% by the year 2010 (a decrease of 7.5 million working days)
- To reduce the incidence of people suffering from work related ill health by 20% by the year 2010 (80 000 fewer cases)
- To reduce the rate of fatal and major injury accidents by 10% by the year 2010
- To achieve half of each improvement by 2004

To achieve these targets, the Government has introduced a 10 point strategy supported by a 44 point action plan which will provide incentives and practical support to employers, together with a range of measures to tackle health and safety responsibilities. The plan will include:

- Tougher penalties to deter health and safety offenders, including imprisonment to be available for most health and safety crimes and the increased maximum fine available to the lower court (£20 000) to be extended to most health and safety offences
- An examination of innovative penalties such as fines linked to turnover and suspension of employers who do not meet their health and safety responsibilities

The CD ROM The Successful management of Hand Arm Vibration uses video clips, sound and animation to illustrate how to identify and reduce the risks. The CD ROM can be obtained from HSE books www.hsebooks.co.uk (tel 01787 881165) priced at £95

A new standard test to validate training for fork lift truck operators has been developed by accrediting bodies and the Joint Industry Council for Lift Truck Operators. Advice on training of lift truck operators and details of accrediting bodies is contained in Rider Operated Trucks. Operator Training is available from HSE books.

Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides

The Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides regulations (LERAP) state that where drift from pesticides which could affect water quality or be harmful to birds or aquatic life, you should limit the use of such pesticides near watercourses. A buffer zone of 6 metres must be kept clear unless sprayer equipment is used which reduces the risk of drift. Equipment is given a 1, 2 or 3 Star rating depending on how much the buffer zone can be reduced with 3 Star equipment giving a reduction to 1 metre.

British Standard EN907

BS EN 907 requires that all new sprayers must be fitted with a chemical induction hopper. Where this is not possible, the height from the ground or platform to the filling hole should not be more than 1.500 m and the horizontal reach between the rim of the tank and the hole should not be more than 300 mm. In addition, BS EN907 requires that all sprayers be fitted with a clean water tank of at least 15 litres capacity.

Groundwater

The latest regulations on groundwater state that sprayer operators are not allowed to flush spray washings down drains or onto waste ground. Unless a washing system is fitted, the tank must be fully filled and the washing disposed of either into purpose built tanks or by spraying over the previously sprayed area.

To reduce the time needed to carry out these operations, some manufacturers fit tank flushing facilities, which mean that only 10% of tank capacity is needed for flushing.

Keep checking www.btme.org.uk for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002