

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 International with the first course, Abrasive Wheels, due to be run, in Bristol on 25 October. Unfortunately, the response has been so poor that we have had to cancel this course. Further courses may have to be cancelled if sufficient delegates have not registered by the deadline dates which are:

Location Bristol
 Course Health & Safety Awareness
 Date 3 & 4 December
 Deadline 9 November

Location Pencoed College
 Course Health & Safety Awareness
 Date 5 & 6 December
 Deadline 9 November

Location Staffordshire
 Course Soil Science
 Date 22 November
 Deadline 8 November

Fortunately, some courses are full and others are almost full allowing greenkeepers to attend quality training at minimum cost thanks to a massive subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

Remember, all courses need a minimum of 6 delegates to run. Any course with less than 6 delegates will be cancelled

You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
 ken@bigga.co.uk
 sami@bigga.co.uk

Golf Course Health and Safety

Changes to the Health and Safety at Work Act continue to have an impact on golf greenkeepers. The Government and the Health and Safety Commission have recently announced a series of targets that are designed to reduce work related deaths, accidents and illnesses in the biggest shake up of health and safety for 25 years.

The initiative comes soon after Home Office proposals 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 employers who do not meet their health and safety responsibilities.

The plan will include:

Tougher penalties to deter health and safety offences, 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 managers without pay.

A directors Code of Practice that will make a named person responsible for health and safety matters within every company (golf Course).

New help for small businesses, including sector specific health and safety guidance.

Exploring, with the Insurance Industry, incentives to reward good health and safety performers at the expense of the bad.

Copies of 'Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy Statement' are available from 'DETR Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby, LS23 7NB (tel 0870 1226236).

Many greenkeepers suffer from the effects of hand arm vibration and managers needing help with understanding the risks can acquire a new electronic product to assist them.

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 +VAT).

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 left unsprayed 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 require 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 1500 mm and the horizontal reach between the rim of the tank and the hole should not be more than 300 mm. In addition, BS EN907 require that all sprayers be fitted with a clean water tank of at least 15 litres capacity.

Groundwater

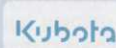
The latest regulations on groundwater state that sprayer operators are not allowed to flush spray washings down drains or onto waste ground. Unless a washing system is fitted, the tank must be fully filled and the washing disposed of either into purpose built tanks or by spraying over the previously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

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

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund



The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director on 01347 833800 or via admin@bigga.co.uk

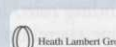


Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319967

Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, WJ Rogers, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend, Douglas Smith



Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030

Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Malbusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, CJ Yeaman

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