

Hu-Tech Newsletter no. 14: September 2004

Welcome to our September newsletter. In this issue we would like to welcome and introduce to you our two new Senior Consultants Calum Smith and Taran Barrington. We are also very pleased to announce that Hu-Tech has won a prestigious HSE contract to develop a new ergonomics resource pack for the Pharmaceuticals Industry – and we'd like to ask for your help. There is also an article that serves as a timely reminder concerning the DDA regulations. Finally we would like to inform you of our on-going programme of training courses in ergonomics and workstation assessment.

Hu-Tech welcomes it's two new Senior Consultants

Hu-Tech has two new Senior Consultants. At about the same time in August, Taran Barrington was promoted through the ranks and Calum Smith joined the company. To introduce the new member of staff: Calum has 10 year's experience applying ergonomics in a variety of systems and environments. He has a Masters degree in Ergonomics and Work Design and a first degree in Biological Sciences. Calum came to us via the ergonomics departments of the Health and Safety Executive and the Institute of Naval Medicine. Most latterly he has been working in ergonomics consultancy, where he worked on computer systems, training systems and safety cases. We're pleased to welcome Calum onboard and congratulate Taran on his promotion.

Hu-Tech to develop new Ergonomic resource pack for the pharmaceuticals industry

Following on from the well-received Offshore Ergonomics Resource Pack, Hu-Tech has been commissioned by HSE Hazardous Installations Directorate to provide an Ergonomics Resource Pack for the Pharmaceuticals Industry.

The main objective of the Resource Pack is to facilitate workplace ergonomic improvement in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

The Resource Pack will provide information, training materials and tools to help identify ergonomic risks and find practical solutions. It will be illustrated with case study examples of typical problems and practical solutions, and is aimed at anyone involved in ergonomics risk management: e.g. people working in health and safety, production, design and engineering.

Can You Help?

This 12-month project is ongoing and we are currently looking for participants within the industry to help provide examples of ergonomic problems and solutions. If you have examples of good practical solutions which you have already implemented, or you still have problems looking for an answer then please get in touch – there will be no cost to your organisation and we may be able to assist.

We are also seeking the opinion of potential end-users of the Resource Pack regarding what you would like to see included and your preferred format (interactive browser-based, text document etc.).

If you can help or contribute, or would just like further information on the project then please contact Dr Ian Randle on 01483 457441 or ian@hu-tech.co.uk.

The Offshore Ergonomics Resource Pack produced by Hu-Tech is available as a free download from the HSE website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/ergonomics.htm>.

Disability Discrimination Act Update

From the 1st October 2004, the revised Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) comes into force which will affect your business. Even if you do not currently have employees who have a disability, it is important to fully understand the implications and be prepared to make any necessary adjustments to ensure that you comply.

It is firstly important to understand the meaning of the word "disability" as it encompasses more than just wheelchair users. People with visual, hearing, mobility and mental impairments are also included;

however this is not an exhaustive list. It is necessary to look at all aspects of your business, not only access and facilities on your premises, but also examples such as how information is presented in leaflets and accessibility to web sites.

Hu-Tech is able to assist with certain aspects to ensure that your business is DDA compliant. For example, if you currently have employees with disabilities and you are unsure as to whether you are doing enough, we would be able to complete individual assessments to determine if any alterations need to be made at the individual's workstation or surrounding areas. We have also worked closely with organisations that are wishing to refurbish their premises and want to ensure that all aspects are DDA compliant - for example in the position of signs, heights of reception desks and even the colour schemes that are used. The aim is to ensure, so far as is possible, that facilities are inclusive by design.

If you would like to find out more information about our services, please contact one of the Hu-Tech team.

Ergonomics Training

IOSH Approved DSE Assessors Training

Hu-Tech is running the practical **IOSH 'Assessing risks for computer users'** course on **9th-10th November in London**. The course will enable delegates to become competent in undertaking DSE risk assessments as required by the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992 (amended 2002). It will also include a session by Bill Fine of **AbilityNet** giving delegates familiarity and confidence in making recommendations for computer adaptations and alternative equipment for colleagues who may experience discomfort at work.

Further details and a booking form are available on our website: http://www.hu-tech.co.uk/training-workstation_assessors.html Alternatively, please contact margaret@hu-tech.co.uk (0131 718 4232).

RSI conference and workshop

Hu-Tech are collaborating with the At Work Partnership to run a one day conference in London entitled 'RSI at work'. The conference will be held on **11th November** and includes the following sessions:

- **Understanding "RSI" – causes, diagnosis, treatment and management options**, Dr Peter Skew, (British Institute of Musculoskeletal Medicine)
- **Ergonomic interventions to reduce risk**, Margaret Hanson (Hu-Tech)
- **Psychosocial factors in upper-limb pain and barriers to recovery**, Dr Nick Kendall
- **Returning to work**, Bill Fine (AbilityNet)
- **"RSI" and the law**, Mike Appleby

The conference will be followed by a one day practical workshop on **12th November** entitled 'Tackling Upper Limb Disorders at Work'. This workshop will be run by Margaret Hanson (Hu-Tech) and Nicola Hunter (Manager, RehabWorks). It will introduce the HSE's risk assessment checklist on ULDs (HSG60 rev) and give delegates an opportunity to practice undertaking an assessment. The afternoon will be spent considering the development of a ULD management programme, including assisting in return to work, appropriate treatment and management of those with ULDs.

For further details about the conference or workshop please contact us on 01604 233 428 or email Linda@hu-tech.co.uk

If you would like any further information on any of these news items, please contact us on:

info@hu-tech.co.uk Tel: 01604 233 428 www.hu-tech.co.uk