

Newsletter – June 2023

1. Joint Meeting with BSIF, Coventry Building Society Arena May 18th 2023.

This was a joint meeting with BSIF and was managed by them. Between 90 and 100 persons attended and there were a number of exhibitors. The subject was “Fit-Testing”. The event was opened by **Dr David Crouch, Cranfield University**.

Nick Baxter, HSE, stood in for Pat Kelly on HSE policy. While this is not his area of expertise he gave a summary of HSE campaigns on wood dust, asbestos, silica etc. He noted that there are still 12000 lung related fatalities per year in the UK. He talked about deficiencies in ear-loop respirators and gave a link to some of the HSE research in this area. See <https://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr1194.htm>.

Alan Murray, CEO BSIF, gave an overview of BSIF activities and drew our attention to their “Is it Genuine” booklet and to their Registered Safety Supplier Scheme, noting that spot-checks on registered members’ equipment gave a pass rate >80% whereas the same tests on equipment from non-members has a 17% pass rate. There was discussion on the duties of suppliers such as Amazon in terms of not retailing unsafe equipment.

Paul Salisbury, FireSafe International gave an informative and entertaining talk on Fit testing and the transmission of infection. He had suggestions on methods for avoiding cross contamination between subjects and from subject to tester and vice-versa during qualitative fit testing and also covered things to consider during quantitative fit-testing.

After Lunch **Mike Clayton, Lead Assessor for Fit-2-Fit**, covered the history of the scheme and how to get qualification. He also talked about future activities and some common errors. **Dr Karen Long, RPA**, gave a more comprehensive study on fit testing and what constituted safety-critical errors and their likelihoods, based on her study of records made during the assessment of fit-testers.

Nick Baxter, HSE, returned to cover his own subject, the work of PH4, test methods, the replacement of SF6, and standards BS ISO 16975-3 and 16975-4 He said that implementation of 17420 was a long way off.

A discussion arose about why HSE won’t accept some ISO standards and would Fit-2-Fit ever be mandatory to which Nick replied “No”.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION European Section

2. ISRP International Conference, Oxford, 2024. Save the Date.

The next big event for our section of the Society is the International conference at Pembroke College, Oxford, from September 23rd to 26th 2024 (assemble Sunday 22nd). This is the 2020 conference held over due to COVID. The conference committee are restarting their work and will be reactivating the booking system later in the year or early next year. For now **SAVE THE DATE** and start preparing your papers.

3. Increased Security on Isrpeurope.com.

Members may have noticed that the reCAPTCHA security on the local website has been increased. This is because there have been a number of bogus registrations over the past year. We believe that these are just nuisance registrations. No financial data is held on the website and we do not believe that any other personal data has been viewed. Only administrators (your Secretary and Malgorzata, our website coordinator) can view personal data.

The bogus registrations are deleted by the Secretary when seen but this has to be done individually (hence the nuisance). Without exception they come with company name "google", have the last name the same as the first name and claim to be male. Often they have unfeasible dates of birth - being under a year old or over one hundred!

While on the subject of data security all membership data (with no financial details included) are held in a password protected file on the Secretary's home computer. We are preparing a new GDPR policy.

4. Membership for 2023.

The section website is open to receive membership payments. Fees are unchanged from 2022 at £75 for individuals. The International Society for Respiratory Protection is the key source of impartial information on respiratory protection worldwide.

28th June 2023

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