



NCBES OPERATIONS NEWSLETTER - March 2018

Issue 3

Director's Message:

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to what is now the 3rd edition of our Newsletter. I hope that you will find the updates on our Facilities, H&S and Stores below of interest. I am particularly satisfied to see the return of the **NEB Freezer** after several months of absence. If there is anything you would like to see included in a future Newsletter please do not hesitate to contact Ger.

Best wishes

NOEL

Facilities Updates

- Buildings Office and Facilities Management have informed us that two new Steam Generators will now be installed before the end of April. This will help significantly to resolve the recent breakdowns which resulted in Autoclaves being out of action
- This week we closed out a lot of the ongoing issues with the lighting controls (UV and white) in the Telstar Biosafety cabinets by replacing the limit switches and flimsy metal operating arms with new magnetic reed switches. A total of 6 hoods (1FS/GFN/GFS) have had this upgrade fitted, their operation tested and end users were informed. We are waiting on the delivery of 3 sash windows from Telstar, once we receive these a Crowthorne engineer will attend site to fit the remaining reed switches and continue with the upgrade works. This work was carried out with minimum interference with the normal operation of the TC suites.
- Over the last 2 weeks or so we have noticed a significant increase of N₂ usage in the building. At the moment we are struggling to maintain the daily LN₂ fills due to this. This continued overuse of N₂ could have a serious impact on the LN₂ generator as the machine is running on full load 24/7. The system is running above design capacity at the moment.

Health & Safety

- Tubing for Bunsen Burners located in the building, has now been replaced
- The recent Fire Drill in the BSB was successful, and the building was evacuated within the recommended time limit
- Researchers and staff are asked to be aware of regulations regarding working out of hours

- **Safety Responsibilities for Other Students and Visitors**

Where a Unit accommodates other students or visitors it is important that it be clearly established how the safety responsibilities are to be managed. A recent accident involving a secondary school student highlights the importance of the Head of Unit ensuring in advance that there are comprehensive risk assessments in place, incorporating appropriate controls and supervision. Community engagement and collaboration are important University activities, however it is essential that the safety aspects are integrated into the management arrangements whether it's a placement, site visit, formal demonstration, etc. See [NUI Galway Safety Statement](#) for guidance on Student Placement (5-63), Visitors (5-72), etc.

- **Driving Safety**

The Health and Safety Authority define driving for work to include *any person who drives on a road as part of their work either in a company vehicle or their own vehicle and receives an allowance from their employer for miles driven*. Commuting to work is not classified as driving for work, except where the person's journey starts from their home and they are travelling to a work location that is not their normal place of work.

Units with vehicles or that hire vehicles are familiar with the safety systems to ensure that the staff that drive these vehicles operate them safely and that the vehicles themselves are safe. It is important all NUI Galway staff that use their own vehicles in the course of their work be reminded at a Unit level to ensure their safety while driving. This includes reminding Unit staff that:

- They must have a current licence, appropriate motor insurance for this work and be in a fit state to drive;
- their vehicle must be properly maintained – see pre-journey [checklist](#), with NCT, etc.
- They must drive with due care and follow the rules of the road in respect of all behaviour including mobile phones, etc.
- They must plan any trips to avoid unnecessary distances, adverse weather, time pressures, etc.

For further details see [Driving for Work](#) Webpage and the HSA and RSA links. Please communicate this to Unit staff who drive and incorporate this into your Unit safety management arrangements.

Procurement/Stores

- We are delighted to confirm the re-introduction of our **NEB Freezer** with a supply of Restriction Enzymes, Modifying Enzymes & Polymerases and Ladders & Markers stocked and available to requisition from stores once again. Please contact the Stores Team for further information.
- To complement the **re-stocking of the NEB freezer**, a representative of Brennan & Co. will have a stand in the foyer on Wednesday April 18th, to help with any queries that you may have regarding their products, in particular, if you want any additional items from their catalogue stocked in this freezer please feel free to stop by and chat with them.
- Laboratory Notebooks are now available to purchase from Stores at a reduced price of €18.00 in batches of 10.