

HOT ISSUES

Materials, Engineering &
Manufacturing Policy Newsletter
Hot Issues

Issue 19: November 2005

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Hot Issues Newsletter.

We start this edition with congratulations to our former Director Simon Edmonds who now heads up Business Relations 1, replacing John Alty who has joined the Fair Markets Group. Gerry Miles will continue as Director for Materials, Engineering & Manufacturing Policy while a successor to Simon is appointed. We have taken this opportunity to review the work of the unit and have made a number of changes to the teams to ensure that we continue to focus our resources on the major issues that impact on our customers. The contact list at the back of the publication incorporates the changes we have made.



Included in this edition are the Emissions Trading Scheme, REACH and the announcement of the Autumn round of DTI's Technology Programme. Any new subject ideas for future issues of the newsletter can be sent to tony.mills@dti.gsi.gov.uk who will be happy to take these on board.

Should you wish to discuss issues affecting your sector please feel free to contact us. Your first port of call to arrange a meeting should be your relationship manager. Contact details are included in the newsletter should you need them.

Influence and Impact Team
Materials, Engineering and Manufacturing Policy

Hot Issues

- Energy Prices 3
- Energy Review 3
- Emissions Trading Scheme 4
- EU Chemicals REACH 5
- DTI Cut Red Tape 6
- Defra Lifts Business Burden 7
- DTI Technology Programme 7
- Waste Research Defra call 8

Other Issues

- Pre Budget Report 2005 9
- Pensions Commission Second Report 9
- ROHS Regulations 9
- Climate Change Programme Review 10
- EU Better Regulation 10
- Consultation on draft UK report on First Air Quality daughter directive 12
- Consultation on waste management licensing exemptions 13
- European Commission Proposals for an eco-design for Energy-
 - Using Products (EuP) Framework Directive 13
- EU Integrated Product Policy 14
- Consultation on IPPC Non-ferrous Metals Sector 15
- Defra Consultation on Evidence and Innovation Strategy 16
- EU Battery Directive 16
- Mixed Waste Classification 17
- Pollution Control and Waste Environment Agency Charges 17
- Competition in Waste Management 17
- Noise at Work 18

Industry Support

- The Materials Innovation & Growth Team 19
- Manufacturing Forum 19
- Manufacturing Advisory Service 21
- Contacts List 22

Hot Issues

Energy Prices

We are aware that Energy Prices are currently a hot issue for all of our readers. The Government recognises that UK industry is experiencing high energy prices, and that Energy Intensive industries are the most exposed to these impacts. The Government takes the impact of high energy prices on competitiveness, and in particular the potential loss of jobs and investment, very seriously. We are looking for ways to mitigate the impact on customers, particularly large industrial users. An Action List has been agreed with the Energy Intensive Users Group (an Industry, OFGEM, DTI group) for measures that can be taken over the short to medium term, such as maximising gas supplies, encouraging demand side response and pursuing energy market liberalisation in the EU.

We will ensure that "Hot Issues" recipients are kept up to date with all current information which will shortly be updated and available on the DTI web site. A link will be circulated to Hot Issues recipients as soon as it becomes available.

Energy Review – A Secure and Clean Energy Future

The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Alan Johnson, announced that they have asked Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks to lead a Review of UK energy policy and to bring forward policy proposals next year.

The Terms of Reference of the Review, published on 29 November 2005, are broad in scope including aspects of both energy supply and demand and will focus on policy measures to help us deliver our objectives beyond 2010. The Review will aim to ensure the UK is on track to meet the goals of the 2003 Energy White Paper in the medium and long term.

A formal consultation phase will start around the turn of the year. The consultation will be launched with a statement of current evidence on the White Paper goals and the Government's plans for engagement with the public and stakeholders.

The Review will assess progress against the four goals set by the 2003 Energy White Paper.

Further information can be obtained at
http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/energy_review_announcement.shtml

Emissions Trading Scheme

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) is a community-wide scheme established for trading allowances to cover the emissions of greenhouse gases from permitted installations. Along with a number of other sectors, steel production is captured by the scheme, as are any combustion plants that have an aggregated thermal input of over 20MW.

Following the Government's consultation on Allocation Methodologies for Phase Two, responses have been considered and an announcement has been published on both Defra and DTI websites giving some details on the approach to allocation methodology, potential expansion to other sectors and the new entrant reserve for Phase Two.

The Environment Agency is now seeking to collect emissions data from those companies affected or those whom the scheme may be potentially expanded to. This data will feed into the draft National Allocation Plan (NAP) which will detail proposed allocations to individual installations. Government officials are working towards consultation on the draft NAP for early in 2006. This will tie-in with the EU Commission deadlines for a draft in June 2006 and a finalized document by December 2006.

The UK Government has won its legal case in the Court of First Instance which challenged the European Commission's refusal to consider the amendment to the UK's National Allocation Plan of Phase One.

The ruling does not comment on the UK's amended total cap on carbon dioxide emissions. It does however require the Commission to consider the amended plan and to make a fresh decision on its compatibility with the EU Emissions Trading Directive's requirements.

On 24 October, Defra announced a consultation on the first amendment to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005 which deals with the following;

- Missing and late installations
- Surrender of permits
- Powers to delay the issues of allowances
- Registry charges; and
- Access to information available under the EU ETS for the national emissions inventory.

- Public Announcement on Phase Two: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/euets_phase2_notice.pdf
- EU ETS Phase 1 Court of First Instance Press Release: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/051123a.htm>
- Defra Consultation: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/etsregs05-amend1/index.htm>
- Contact: keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk or georgiana.glaysheer@dti.gsi.gov.uk

EU Chemicals Strategy (REACH)

REACH deals with the regulation of chemicals and other substances proposals were adopted by the European Commission on 29 October 2003. The UK is endeavouring to achieve political agreement on REACH by the end of its Presidency.

REACH will fill gaps in our information about the properties and uses of 30,000 chemical substances marketed (produced or imported) in the EU. The Government's long-term objective, as a strong supporter of the human health and environmental aims of REACH, is to remove substances of very high concern from the market. REACH will rationalise the existing regulatory system for chemicals and other substances, which currently relies on over 40 pieces of legislation.

Companies will be required to seek authorisations of substances of very high (e.g. carcinogens). Such authorisations may only be granted where the risks associated with the use of the substance are under adequate control or where the applicant can demonstrate that there is a strong socio- economic case for continuing to use the substances in the absence of feasible alternatives.

At the same time the Government recognises that one size doesn't fit all and appreciate that metals, for example, are not easily substituted. The UK Presidency has developed a compromise proposal on REACH which includes a provision allowing companies to seek an exemption from the authorisation requirement if the physical form in which they use the substance carries no significant risk (e.g. metals in the massive form). The UK Presidency compromise proposal also exempts ores, minerals, process gases and recycled/recovered materials from REACH registration, and provides clarification that alloys are exempt too.

The Government is committed to making significant progress on REACH under the UK Presidency with the aim of seeking political agreement by the end of the year. A substantive policy debate will be held at the Competitiveness Council on 29 November, paving the way for political agreement [i.e. agreement by Member States] to be sought at a further Competitiveness Council on 13 December.

European Parliament had its First Reading with a debate on 15 November and a successful vote on 17 November. Parliament voted in favour of:

- Excluding waste from the scope (Registration and Authorisation) of REACH, independently of the permit situation of the recycling plant (waste or metals recycling)
- Excluding ores and concentrates from Registration, if not chemically modified, independently of their hazard status
- Adding a definition of alloys to REACH acknowledging that alloys are mixtures requiring specific attention under the technical guidance notes
- Exempting substances used in batteries from Authorisation.

It is recognized that the Metals Industry are concerned over the amendments adopted by Parliament which introduce mandatory substitution and automatic 5 year reviews for all authorisations.

- Websites:
- <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/chemicals/eufuture.htm>
- Contact: necs@defra.gsi.gov.uk.
- Contact: Keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Trade and Industry Secretary Alan Johnson has published details of DTI's developing simplification plan and set out how the Department will deliver over £1 billion of regulatory savings by 2010. The plan will help deliver a new 25% target for reducing administrative burdens as announced by the Prime Minister at the CBI conference on 29 November 2005.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry called on businesses, large and small, to work with DTI in developing simplification proposals as well as submitting their ideas for cutting red tape.

Businesses can view the full draft plan and submit views on how DTI can further simplify its regulations through the DTI website: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/simplify> or email direct to simplify@dti.gsi.gov.uk.

Defra Lifts £86M Business Burden

Defra has published its plans to simplify regulations and reduce their cost on business.

Lifting the Burden - Defra's initial simplification Plan, identifies ways of cutting bureaucracy and invites suggestions from stakeholders to streamline the Department's regulations.

Defra's initial simplification plan, sets out 64 initiatives. Of these, eighteen have so far been costed and £86m of annual savings to business have been identified. As other measures are developed, Defra will carry out further cost/benefit analysis and expect to identify further savings.

Industry is invited to submit proposals for simplification and further details on this can be found at www.betterregulation.gov.uk
Lifting the Burden is available online at: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/regulat.asp

DTI Technology Programme

The Technology Programme

The Autumn 2005 round of the Technology Programme competition formally opened on 24 November with a launch event in London. £63 million will be available to UK businesses for collaborative research and development projects in six priority areas. A series of regional information days is being held across the UK with the support of the regional development agencies and devolved administrations. The events are an opportunity for delegates to learn more about the technologies and hear about the range of support from the Programme, regions and networks. Speakers will also help them understand the competition requirements and the application process.

The Autumn 2005 technology priority areas are:

- waste minimisation/resource efficiency - £10m
- energy - £13m
- regenerative medicine technologies - £10m;
- design of electrical and electronic control and power systems - £10m;
- materials modelling - £10m;
- technologies for data and content storage, management, retrieval and analysis - £10m;

The programme of information days:

Manchester, 1st December with NWDA - focus on data and content storage, management, retrieval and analysis

London, 5th December with EMDA - focus on design of electrical and electronic control power systems

London, 8th December with Invest NI - focus on materials modelling

London, 9th December with SEEDA & LDA - focus on regenerative medicine

For more information visit:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme/nov05_comp.html

Waste Research – Defra call for proposals

Defra has opened a second call for research proposals under its Waste and Resources Research Programme.

The call, worth approximately £4m, aims to provide an evidence base for better-informed policy development on sustainable waste management.

A selection of research topics are included under this second call, including managing biowaste, recycling, residual waste in landfill, improving landfill conditions and identifying market opportunities from waste.

The deadline for expression of interests is **12 January 2006**, with an anticipated deadline for full proposals by 2 May 2006

- Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/051121b.htm>
- Contact Nick Blakey at: nick.blakey@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Other Issues

The Chancellor will make his Pre-Budget Report Speech to the House of Commons on 5 December 2005 at 3:30pm

It provides a progress report on what has been achieved so far, gives an update of the state of the economy and public finances, and sets out the direction of Government policy in the run up to the spring Budget.

To receive a copy of the Pre-Budget Report in PDF format by email on the day of publication, send an email to presslist@hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Pensions Commission release Second Report

The Second Report of the Pensions Commission sets out the conclusions of the Commission on the likely evolution of the UK pension system if policy is unchanged, and makes recommendations for a new policy direction. The report brings forward recommendations for a new pensions settlement for the 21st century.

The full Report ' **A New Pensions Settlement for the 21st Century** is available at www.pensionscommission.org.uk

Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (ROHS) Regulations

The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) Regulations come into force on 1 July 2006. DTI has appointed the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to be the enforcement body.

The Regulations implement the RoHS Directive, which bans the placing on the EU market of new electrical and electronic equipment containing more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl (PDPE) ether flame retardants.

Manufacturers of equipment in the categories of equipment covered by the Regulations will need to understand the requirements of the RoHS Directive to ensure that their products and their components comply.

Where to go to find out more

Further information on the RoHS Regulations and Directive and a fuller list of equipment covered by them can be found on the RoHS website (www.rohs.gov.uk). Or on the DTI website (www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/)

NWML operates a dedicated enquiry line for RoHS; (email: rohs@nwml.gov.uk; telephone 020 8943 7227).

Climate Change Programme Review

The UK Climate Change Programme, which was published in 2000, set out the Government's strategic approach to the challenge of climate change. It focused on practical action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through to 2010 and included a framework of policies and measures to reduce emissions across all sectors of the economy.

The Government launched a review of the Climate Change Programme in September 2004. A consultation seeking views on the Review ran from 8 December to 2 March. We will update recipients of Hot Issues when the review is published.

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk
- Hotlinks:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/index.htm>
- contact: keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk

EU Better Regulation

We are working with the European Commission and other member states on the EU Better Regulation agenda aimed at modernising regulatory frameworks and processes through effective consultation, high quality impact assessment more and better use of alternatives to regulation and simplification. The UK sees this agenda as an essential element of economic reform. EU better regulation is a top priority for the UK Presidency.

Current Situation and Next Steps

Following on from the European Commission's 2002 Better Regulation Action Plan and the 2003 Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making, the new Commission published its Communication on Better Regulation for Growth and Jobs in March 2005. This placed the better regulation agenda firmly in the context of the revitalised Lisbon Strategy and signaled a renewed commitment from the Commission to make real progress. The Communication contained a number of significant pledges, including:

- A renewed commitment to accompany all legislative proposals with an impact assessment, including competitiveness testing to determine the impacts on business.
- A pledge to withdraw proposals already on the table that are not necessary, especially if they are not accompanied by an adequate impact assessment.
- Commitment to redouble efforts to simplify EU rules and to come forward with a comprehensive Communication by October 2005, having consulted stakeholders.
- Commitment to make initial results of pilot phase on administrative burdens available by October 2005.
- Commitment to include practitioners from the economic field in new better regulation advisory network to Commission.

The Commission announced the results of its screening exercise on 27 September. It will withdraw 67 proposals and carry out economic impact assessment work on a further six. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the UK Presidency as a clear demonstration that the Commission is serious about delivering regulatory reform.

An ambitious new 3-year rolling simplification programme was also announced in the anticipated Commission Communication on 26 October. Many of the planned proposals could make a real difference to business through reducing administrative burdens and simplifying whole areas of EU law, including Company Law, waste legislation and Consumer Protection legislation.

The March Communication and the other documents mentioned above can be found on the Commission's better regulation website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/index.htm).

The Commission's 2006 work programme and roadmaps can be found at http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm. We would strongly encourage businesses to use these roadmaps in early discussions with the Commission, and contribute to consultations and comment on Commission impact assessments. Information on current EU consultations may be found here http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm. One ongoing consultation on this site is "10 minutes to improve the business environment", which asks for simplification suggestions. Your ideas could be instrumental in the Commission's simplification work programme.

In addition, businesses can join the European Business Test Panel (EBTP), designed to allow companies to feed in views at an early stage on specific issues or areas of the Commission's work. Contact Anna Soanes at the DTI for more information or see the Commission's [Your Voice](#) website (you can also apply to join the EPTP online on this site).

Further Information and Contacts

Cabinet Office Regulatory Impact Unit: Natasha Coates (020 7276 2175, natasha.coates@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation/europe/index.asp>.

DTI: ewt.ebtp@dti.gsi.gov.uk for the European Business Test Panel
General queries: Anna Soanes (020 7215 2716, anna.soanes@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Consultation on draft UK report regarding plans and programmes to achieve limit values set by the first air quality daughter directive

This consultation paper seeks views on the UK Government's and Devolved Administrations's report to the European Commission on plans and programmes to meet ambient air quality limit values for pollutants set under the First Air Quality Daughter Directive (1999/30/EC), produced in accordance with requirements under the Air Quality Framework Directive (1996/62/EC)

The First Daughter Directive sets binding limit values for nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, particulate matter and lead, to be met by various dates between 2001 and 2010 by all Member States.

Under the Directive, Member States are required to report to the Commission each year whether or not the limit values set in the Directive have been achieved.

Consultation closes on **30 January 2006**

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/current.htm.
- Responses to Rhonda.scobie@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation on proposals for amendments to waste management licensing exemptions relating to hazardous waste

The Government and the National Assembly for Wales is reviewing a number of exemptions to the waste management licensing system. Exemptions from waste management licensing are set out in Schedule 3 of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (as amended). The exemptions under review are principally those which cover hazardous waste, although where these exemptions include non-hazardous wastes they are also addressed. This consultation paper seeks comments on proposed changes

Many hazardous wastes have a market value if collected in sufficient quantities. The Government's intention is to have in place a regulatory framework that encourages the existence of sufficient sites to facilitate their collection and storage pending recovery. This review intends to maintain the benefits of existing exemptions in the light of newly hazardous wastes while making the exemptions compliant with European legislation.

Closing date for responses **16 December 2005**

- Website: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1030716/1122335//lang=_e

Email: Eamonn.Prendergast@defra.gsi.gov.uk

- consultation document: www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/age.htm
- Email: age.response@dti.gsi.gov.uk

European Commission proposals for an eco-design for Energy-using Products (EuP) framework Directive

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a framework Directive on the eco-design of energy-using products, such as electrical and electronic devices or heating equipment, on 1 August 2003. The proposal does not introduce directly binding requirements for specific products, but does define conditions and criteria for setting requirements regarding environmentally relevant product characteristics (such as energy consumption).

The EuP proposals were presented to a meeting of the EC Energy Council Working Group in September 2003 and were discussed by Ministers at the full meeting of the

Energy Council on 15 December 2003. Political agreement on a text was agreed at a meeting of the Energy Council at the end of June 2004.

At the same time however, MEPs in the Environment Committee of the European Parliament had been considering their Report on the Commission's text and came up with just under 350 amendments to the original text. A plenary discussion of the Directive took place in May 2004, where the list of amendments was reduced but it was too late for a final text to be agreed with the Energy Council and adopted before the then-current European Parliament was dissolved.

The new Parliament began its second reading of the proposals earlier this year and agreement on a compromise text (Following discussions with the Luxembourg Presidency and the European Commission) was achieved in June. A final text was adopted on 6 July 2005.

Discussions on a potential list of initial priority products or product categories are likely to begin in the Autumn, with the Commission having a commitment –by 2007 - to establish a three-year work plan outlining its priorities. These priorities must be discussed and agreed with stakeholders within a Consultative Forum. In the interim, the Commission will bring forward proposals for implementing measures that will help the EU meet priorities identified by its Climate Change Programme.

- Website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/eco_design/index.htm
- <http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/EUP.htm>
- Contact: Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk

EU Integrated Product Policy

As reported in previous issues, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Integrated Product Policy (IPP) on 18 June 2003 that outlined its strategy for reducing the environmental impact caused by products. IPP represents a new approach and puts emphasis on three dimensions:

- Life-cycle thinking - when pollution reduction measures are identified, consideration is given to the whole of a product's life-cycle from cradle to grave;
- Flexible - as to the type of policy measure to be used, working with the market where possible;
- Full stakeholder involvement

The Environment Council reached its formal conclusions on the Commission Communication in October 2003 and the European Parliament produced a Draft Report on 1 March 2004, which is still under consideration.

The Commission has now also established a formal Network with Member States and is holding regular meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to monitor and promote the implementation of the Commission's Communication on IPP. It is also a forum for the Commission to report to Member States and stakeholders on its IPP related activities and for the Member States and stakeholders to report back to the Commission.

Four meetings of this group have now been held, with the most recent taking place in Brussels on 23rd November 2005.

- Website:
- <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ipp/ippcommunication.htm>
- <http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/IPP.htm>
- Contact: Steven Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation on IPPC SG4 Non-ferrous Metals Sector

Defra invites comments on revised guidance on the Best Available Techniques for minimising pollution from Non-Ferrous foundry Processes – SG4.

This is the final consultation on the first of the so-called “2-year reviews” of all the Sector Guidance (SG) notes for the local authority IPPC regime. The 2-year review programme is to reinforce the guidance on non-air matters, which were given limited coverage in the original published notes.

The revised guidance will be issued under regulation 37 of the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000. Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government are carrying out this consultation exercise jointly.

Closing date for responses **9 December 2006**

Contact Carl Woodward (via email carl.woodward@defra.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0207082 8388) for an email or paper copy of the guidance note.

Defra Consultation on the Evidence and Innovation Strategy

The Evidence and Innovation Strategy project is an in-depth review, providing a current assessment of Defra's evidence and innovation needs. It aims to improve Defra's understanding of how evidence and innovation can best support delivery of Defra's Strategic Outcomes, as set out in the five-year strategy, and help refocus the use of knowledge (including science, social science, economics, statistics and engineering) in achieving its objectives.

The Consultation period closes for comments on **12 January 2006**
The public consultation document can be obtained at
www.defra.gov.uk/science/how/strategy.htm.

EU Battery Directive

In December 2004 the EU Council of Ministers reached political agreement on a common position on the draft directive on batteries and accumulators. The directive aims to maximize the separate collection of spent batteries and accumulators, and to reduce the disposal of batteries in the municipal waste stream. It sets challenging collection and recycling targets for spent consumer batteries and introduces a partial ban on the marketing of consumer nickel-cadmium batteries. The draft directive further prohibits the disposal of spent automotive and industrial batteries in landfill or by incineration, and makes battery producers financially responsible for the end of life management of spent batteries. The dossier will now return to the European Parliament for its second reading, which is expected to take place in December 2005. It is anticipated that the draft directive will be adopted by mid 2006.

- Website: www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/ep/batteries.htm
- contact: paul.creary@dti.gsi.gov.uk

The Environment Agency has issued revised guidance on the classification and coding of mixed wastes at authorised waste treatment facilities.

The guidance sets out how wastes produced at authorised waste treatment sites should be classified and coded according to the European Waste Catalogue (EWC)

Copy of the Guidance can be obtained at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1030716/1122335/?lang=_e

Pollution Control and Waste – Environment Agency Charges

The Environment Agency is seeking the views of customer groups, individual charge-payers and others with an interest in the proposals for changes to the Environment Agency charging schemes on Waste Management Licensing, Transfrontier Shipment, Pollution Prevention Control, Radioactive Substances Act Regulations and Integrated Pollution Control, to be effective from 1 April 2006

Responses due by **23 December 2005**

Consultation documents can be obtained from http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/consultations/1180312/?version=1&lang=_e

Competition in Waste Management

The European Commission has published a paper on competition in the waste management sector, including packaging waste, ELV and WEE

Copy of the document can be obtained from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/antitrust/others/waste.pdf>

The HSE has published guidance for employers on the Control of Noise at Work Regulations.

The Noise Regulations 2005 require employers to prevent or reduce risks to health and safety from exposure to noise at work. Employees have duties under the Regulations too.

The Regulations require employers to:

- assess the risks to your employees from noise at work
- take action to reduce the noise exposure that produces those risks
- provide your employees with hearing protection if you cannot reduce the exposure enough by using other methods
- make sure the legal limits in noise exposure are not exceeded
- provide your employees with information, instruction and training
- carry out health surveillance where there is a risk to health

The guidance note can be obtained at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg362.pdf>

Industry Support

The Materials Innovation & Growth Team

Former DTI Minister Jacqui Smith launched the **Materials Innovation & Growth Team** (MatIGT) on 26th January 2005 in London. Its **key objective is to define a Materials Strategy for the UK that will enable the UK to optimise the benefits new materials developments will offer**. Representatives from the materials producing and using industries, the regions and government aim to secure agreement on a shared vision for the future of an industry that employs over four million people in the UK. Wyn Jones OBE, Chair of British Alcan Aluminium, part of Alcan Inc, leads the team.

An Advisory Group oversees the work of the IGT and 5 Task Groups:

- Science & Technology
- People & Skills
- Best Practice
- Assets & Infrastructure
- Impact & Policy

The IGT is due to publish its findings in February 2006. You can keep up to date with progress by registering on the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network website: www.amf.uk.com or by contacting the appropriate member of the Secretariat Team listed below:-

Secretariat: Gerry Miles – gerry.miles@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Sagitta Fernando – sagitta.Fernando@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Robert Quarshie - robert.quarshie@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Jackie Butterfield - Jackie.buttefield@iom3.org

website: www.amf.uk.com

Manufacturing Forum

The role of the Forum is to ensure the effective implementation and evolution of the Government's [Manufacturing Strategy](#), published in 2002 and reviewed in 2004). The Forum brings together Government, industry, trade unions, Regional Development Agencies, academia, and other stakeholders to support manufacturing. The Fom seeks to steer policies across Government that impact on manufacturing.

The Forum also engages actively in areas where the increased participation of business, unions, and other stakeholders can make a significant impact. The main focus of the first year of the Forum has been in three main areas:

Skills

The Forum puts its weight behind a bid for an employer-led Manufacturing Skills Academy jointly developed by the Forum and the Sector Skills Council For Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies Alliance (SEMTA). On 31 October, it was announced that the

first four national skills academies to move to a business planning stage would be: manufacturing, food and drink production, financial services and construction. The intention is to launch a Manufacturing Skills Academy around September 2004.

Public Procurement

The Forum's sub-group on public procurement is reviewing the Government's procurement agenda to examine how it can deliver benefits for UK manufacturing. It has commissioned a research project into the use of social clauses in procurement contracts. The project will make an assessment of how and where social clauses can help UK manufacturing, with a range of examples from real life. It will also include guidance on good practice for procurers, as well as guidance for suppliers on responding to social clauses.

Image of Manufacturing

The Forum's sub-group on the image of manufacturing has been looking at how we develop key messages and communication routes to improve the perception of modern manufacturing amongst key audiences. It has jointly funded a research project carried out by the Institute for Manufacturing on defining High Value Manufacturing. The project has developed a profile of manufacturing showing that it is much more than simply production - the turning of raw materials into a finished product. Instead, successful manufacturing now is likely to have its key value in the various elements of the product cycle. From research, design and development, to branding and marketing, and through to service and after-sales service. The Group is looking the potential to building on this work to develop a national communications campaign.

- Website: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/manufacturingforum/index.htm>
- contact: stuart.barthropp@dti.gsi.gov.uk

MANUFACTURING ADVISORY SERVICE (MAS)

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) reveals in its latest newsletter that since its launch in April 2002 it has created an added value of over £155 million for manufacturing industry.

In that time, MAS has responded to almost 56,000 enquiries from manufacturing firms, carried out over 11,000 on-site diagnostic health checks, completed over 3,000 in-depth consultations, and held over 1,300 training events for local businesses.

By providing access to free hands-on advice and assistance from professional experts, MAS has become the major source of support to Britain's manufacturers, helping them to improve

their productivity and achieve a vital competitive edge through adopting global best practice in manufacturing.

You can download a copy of the newsletter from the national MAS website at www.mas.dti.gov.uk or contact your local Regional Centre by ringing the MAS helpline at 0845 658 9600.

- Website: www.mas.dti.gov.uk
contact: MAS helpline at 0845 658 9600.

Materials, Engineering and Manufacturing Policy Contact List	
Gerry Miles Director 0207 215 1474 gerry.miles@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Noreen Moriarty PA 0207 215 1178 Noreen.Moriarty@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Keith Hodgkinson Deputy Director Manufacturing Strategy 0207 215 1094 Keith.Hodgkinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Robert Quarshie Chief Analytical Advisor Materials Technology 0207 215 1563 Robert.Quarshie@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Terry Martin Influence and Impact Team (IIT) Assistant Director 0207 215 1102 Terry.martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Nick Morgan Assistant Director, Materials Innovation & Growth team Engineering 0207 215 1105 nick.morgan@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Keith Avis Assistant Director, Metals Policy 0207 215 1455 keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Sagitta Fernando 0207 215 1088 Sagitta.Fernando@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Dan Ninan Manufacturing Forum Secretariat	Martin Berry Deputy Director Manufacturing Policy Team & MAS

0207 215 0876 – Mob 07739 531364 daniel.ninan@dti.gsi.gov.uk	0207 215 2927 Martin.Berry@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Stuart Barthropp Senior Policy Advisor, Manufacturing Forum 020 7215 1898 Stuart.Barthropp@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Patrick Keen Senior Policy Advisor- Manufacturing 0207 215 1098 patrick.Keen@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Tim Cullen Senior Policy Advisor 020 7215 1096 Timothy.Cullen@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Brian Greenwood Deputy Director –Relationship Management 020 7215 1298 Brian.Greenwood@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Georgiana Glaysher Senior Policy Advisor 0207 215 4121 Georgiana.Glaysher@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Sandy Grom Relationship Manager- Paper,Print and Metals 020 7215 2963 Sandy.Grom@dti.gsi.gov.uk
David Williams Senior Policy Advisor- environmental issues 020 7215 1357 David.Williams@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Zoë Dayan Relationship Manager, Design Council, Alcan 0207 215 1049 zoe.dayan@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Russell Kerr Senior Policy Advisor- Manufacturing Forum 020 7215 1296 R.Kerr@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Demos Demosthenous Relationship Manager – Furniture, Industrial Minerals 020 7215 1890 Demos.Demosthenous@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Tony Mills Senior Policy Advisor 020 7215 1512 Tony.Mills@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Simon Greaves Relationship Manager – Metals and Engineering simon.greaves@dti.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 01132 338241
David Robinson Relationship Manager – Technical textiles 0161 952 4193 David.Robinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Ashley Rosengarten Relationship Manager – Engineering and Metals 0161 952 4308 Ashley.Rosengarten@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Denton Robinson Information Manager - Matrix 0207 215 1467 Denton.robinson@dti.gsi.gov.uk	Dave Courtney Executive Co-ordinator -Manufacturing Advisory Service 020 7215 1490 Dave.Courtney@dti.gsi.gov.uk