

Materials and engineering Hot Issues. Issue 4: March 2003

URN No: 03/415b

Welcome to the fourth edition of our newsletter. New issues in this edition include: Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC), Corporate Governance, Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Review of Hazardous Substances, Batteries, Noise and Vibration. In our Industry Support Section we have briefly set out the help available to the metals industries. We will cover each of these in more detail in forthcoming issues. If this is the first time you have seen the newsletter we hope you will find the contents helpful and informative.

The purpose of this newsletter is to stimulate a two-way dialogue on issues where there is an opportunity to influence the policy process, working with you to present evidence of the potential impact on your company/sector. If we are to be effective in influencing the policy debate we need your views on the issues affecting your productivity and competitiveness. We recognise that there are other pressures on your time, but hope that you will be able to work with us to ensure that your concerns are taken into account in the policy process. The better our information and evidence, the more robust we can be in influencing policy developments.

Suggestions for subjects you wish to be covered in future issues are always welcome. For instance, we have covered Corporate Governance in this edition, as a direct result of feedback from the January newsletter. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who you feel might have an interest in the issues. If they would like to forward their details to Ambert.Prosper@dti.gsi.gov.uk, we will ensure that they are placed on the future circulation list.

If you would find it helpful, the Influence and Impact Team is happy to meet you to discuss the policy issues impacting on your company/sector. Please contact your relationship manager to arrange a convenient time.

Terry Martin
Assistant Director, Influence and Impact Section
Materials and Engineering Sector Team (MEST)

Fiscal

Issue: Corporate Governance

Main Points:

On 20 January, Derek Higgs published his report on the role and effectiveness of Non-Executive Directors, commissioned by Secretary of State Patricia Hewitt and Chancellor Gordon Brown in April 2002. The report of Sir Robert Smith's group on audit committees, which was carried out at the request of the Co-ordinating Group on Accountancy and Audit was published on the same day. The Government warmly welcomes Derek Higgs' and Robert Smith's reports.

The two reports propose changes to the Combined Code: Principles of Good Governance and Code of Best Practice – first published in 1998 - to produce a new consolidated revised Code. The Financial Reporting Council (FRC – who are responsible for the Code) is currently undertaking a twelve-week consultation period (deadline 14 April), inviting comments on the proposals.

After assessing the comments, the FRC will issue the definitive version of the revised Code, whether as currently drafted or as amended in light of comments received. It is likely that a new Code will be in place during Summer 2003.

Copies of the Derek Higgs review, FRC press release and the proposed Combined Code Guidance can be accessed through the weblinks below.

Deadline for input: Monday 14 April 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

Higgs Review – www.dti.gov.uk/cld/non_exec_review

FRC Press Release -

www.frc.org.uk/publications/publication402.html

Audit Committees: Combined Code Guidance – FRC appointed group chaired by Sir Robert Smith –

www.frc.org.uk/publications/content/ACReport.pdf

Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Energy

Issue: Emissions Trading Scheme

Main Points:

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UKETS), which started in April 2002, allows companies to buy and sell green house gas emissions trading allowances. Details on the UKETS are held on the Defra website at the address below. The recently published Energy White Paper signalled that emissions trading is central to the Government's future energy policy framework, and indeed has implications for associated areas of policy, Climate Change Agreements being a prime example.

European Environment Ministers reached political agreement on the proposed EU Emissions Trading Directive (EUETD) on 10 December 2002. It is anticipated that conciliation between the Presidency and the Parliament will take place during Summer 2003. The Directive should be adopted in late 2003.

The first landmark in the process of implementing the EUETD is for Member States to provide the European Commission with their plan for allocating national allowances by March 2004. DEFRA are taking this issue forward, in partnership with the DTI, but you should be aware that there are windows of opportunity, arising now and leading to the National Allocation Plan (NAP) being submitted, where you can have a say in the framing of this policy. In particular, there are a number of working groups currently running, made up of industry representatives, which consider and feed into the NAP decision-making process. Please get in touch with us at the contact address below if you would like further details about these groups. There will also be the opportunity to find out more about this issue at a one day Emissions Trading Group run seminar which is planned for early June. If you register your interest in this event now, through the contact below, further details will be passed onto you when they become available. A formal period of consultation on the Government's proposed policy in this area is also due to start this Autumn.

Deadline for input: ASAP to MEPs or European Trade Associations, for details about NAP working groups and to register an initial interest in NAP June seminar.

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):
<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/1832|0|RAPID&lg=EN>>



Contact us at: Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Energy

Issue: Energy White Paper

Main Points:

The Government's Energy White Paper was published on 24 February. Details were E-Mailed to those on the Hot Issues consultation list at the time of publication. The attainment of four new goals provides the framework for the document:

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions;

Securing reliable energy supplies;

Attaining competitive energy markets in the UK and beyond; and

Ensuring that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

The Government's commitment to cut UK carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050 very much signals the long-term agenda here.

Representations from business in response to the consultation document provided an important balance to the decision making process. The Materials & Engineering Sector Team (MEST) was particularly grateful for the views expressed by industry, which very much enhanced our input into the White Paper team.

Now that the White Paper has been published we would be interested to gauge your reaction, particularly with regards to the implications for your business strategy, both in the short and the long term.

The Energy Strategy Unit are now looking at the role out of White Paper policy on a regional basis, and would like to hear of any events (local, regional and national) that would benefit from a presentation being given on White Paper policy. They are also happy to meet companies directly to discuss White Paper issues. Please register your interest on either through the contact given below.

Deadline for input: Ongoing

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents): A copy of the Energy White Paper can be found at:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/index.shtml#wp>

Contact us at: Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Energy

Issue: EU Proposal for a Directive on the promotion of Cogeneration of Heat and Power (CHP)

Main Points:

Cogeneration or CHP is a highly fuel-efficient technology, which uses waste heat produced as a by-product of the electricity generation process. The European Commission has issued proposals for a Directive to facilitate a stable framework, which promotes the CHP generation process. Both Member States and MEPs are currently considering the proposal which has been afforded priority status by the Greek Presidency.

As well as feeding your views into us, you may also want to consider asking your European Trade Association to encourage its members to lobby their own Member States and similarly their own MEPs.

Deadline for input: Ongoing

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consult/ec-chp/index.htm>

Contact us at: Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: EU Environmental Liability Directive

Main Points:

As reported in previous editions, the European Commission has issued a draft Directive on environmental liability to establish a framework for the prevention and remedying of significant environmental damage, based on the polluter pays principle.

The draft Environmental Liability Directive is a priority area for Greece during its Presidency and is therefore subject to fast moving debate over the first 6 months of this year.

We continue to welcome your views on the draft Directive, particularly on issues of key concern and on any proposals that you support. For instance your views, particularly with examples of the potential impacts on your operations, would be welcome on the following issues which are currently under discussion:

Possible options for financial security (including compulsory measures)

The need for a permit exception

The possibility of phased implementation

As well as feeding your views into us, you may also want to consider asking your European Trade Association to encourage its members to lobby their own Member States and similarly their own MEPs. The next lead committee vote on amendments to the draft Directive is provisionally planned for 29 April 2003.

Deadline for input: 28 April 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

The EU White Paper on Environmental Liability, along with other background papers is available from the following site:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/liability/index.htm>

The draft Directive is available from the following site:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/en_502PC0017.pdf

Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: EU Chemicals Strategy

Main Points:

As mentioned in previous editions, on 9 December 2002 the Government issued its position statement on the new EU Chemicals Strategy, outlining ways in which the Commission's proposals could be made workable and effective, whilst maintaining industry competitiveness. If you have any comments on the position statement, they can be made to the web address below.

The European Commission is committed to a 5-week Internet consultation on the legislation in late-April/early May. The intention is to invite views about the overall workability of the legislation, but clearly – despite the time pressures – it provides a chance to consider the proposals in detail. Such a consultation appears to be unprecedented, and signals a better approach to making new legislation, as well as the significance of this particular dossier. The Government will in any case carry out a formal public consultation once the Commission's proposals are available.

Please feed comments direct to Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) necs@defra.gsi.gov.uk and also to MEST as below.

Deadline for input: Ongoing

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

The Defra announcement is available from the following site:
www.defra.gov.uk/news/2002/021209b.htm

The Government position statement is available from the following site: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/chemicals/pdf/necs-ukposition.pdf

Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive/Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive.

Main Points:

The WEEE Directive is a "producer responsibility" measure, which extends the polluter pays principle by making producers responsible for recovery and recycling of their products at end of life.

The RoHS Directive will ban the use of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE flame retardants in electrical and electronic equipment from July 2006. There are a number of exemptions for applications where these substances cannot as yet be replaced.

The DTI will be consulting on the Directives over the next 18 months, the first stage of which (a Discussion Paper) was published on 28 March and is available on the DTI website, together with supporting information (see Hot link below). Responses to the consultation document should be sent to paul.creary@dti.gsi.gov.uk and copied to MEST.

Deadline for input: 30 May 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):
www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/index.htm

Contact us at: Ambert.Prospier@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: Draft Outline of European Commission Communication on the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC)

Main Points:

We e-mailed you on 10 March to inform you that the European Commission is planning to issue a Communication on the IPPC Directive - possibly around mid-to-end April.

Thank you to everyone who has already responded. This will aid discussions at an internal meeting on 4 April. We would still like to hear your views (see Contact Section below) on the 9 chapters contained in the current draft, so that we can continue to feed them into discussions on the Government response.

Chapter 1: Progress in implementation - legal transposition and practical application

Chapter 2: Socio-economic impacts - competitiveness, structural funds, SMEs

Chapter 3: Global context - Eco-dumping, World Summit on Sustainable Development

Chapter 4: Key interpretation issues - BAT by 2007, definition of BAT, definition of capacity, General Binding Rules and emissions trading schemes

Chapter 5: Information Exchange - BREF notes, progress made and next steps in the information exchange

Chapter 6: Future developments - Public Participation Directive, Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Directive, industrial activities covered

Chapter 7: Article 18 Emission Limit Values - advantages and disadvantages, candidates

Chapter 8: European Pollutant Emission Register (being set up by the Commission under Article 15(3)) - progress, UN Pollutant Release and Transfer Register - being set up by UN ECE under the Aarhus Convention

Chapter 9: Links to Other instruments - traditional instruments (i.e. directives, regulations etc), non-traditional instruments (e.g. liability, taxes, trading, voluntary agreements, EMAS

If you would like a copy of Defra's version of the Commission presentation, please e-mail Sagitta Fernando at sagitta.fernando@dti.gsi.gov.uk.

We will forward the final version of the Commission Communication to you once it is published.

Deadline for input: 18 April 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):
N/A

Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: European Commission Consultation Document on the revision of Council Directives 91/157/EEC, 93/86/EEC and 98/101/EC on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances

Main Points:

The European Commission has issued a Consultation Document proposing a revision of the Council Directives 91/157/EEC, 93/86/EEC and 98/101/EC on batteries and accumulators. Designed to widen the scope of an existing Directive, it introduces more stringent requirements on the recovery, disposal and recycling of all types of batteries and places a possible ban on all batteries and accumulators containing cadmium where commercially viable substitutes are available.

In assessing how the collection and recycling targets could be met, we would welcome your input on the following options:

Introduction of a producer responsibility principle for spent batteries and accumulators (establishing free take-back system/financing separate collection and recycling facilities).

Introduction of a voluntary agreement with producers for collection and recycling of spent batteries and accumulators placed on the Community market.

Use of alternative calculation methods for the targets.

Within the framework of the Extended Impact Assessment for the revision of the Battery Directive, all stakeholders and Member States are given the opportunity to communicate their positions and concerns related to the revision. Comments on the European Commission Consultation Document should be sent direct to Commission by e-mail to env-batteries@cec.eu.int. and copied to MEST

Deadline for input: 28 April 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

The Consultation Document can be accessed from the following Commission's batteries website

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/batteries/consultation.htm>

Contact us at: Ken.Bruin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: Waste Incineration Regulations
<p>Main Points:</p> <p>Further to our article in our January edition, Defra subsequently published Guidance on the Regulations on 7 February (see Hot Link below).</p> <p>Defra is seeking comments on the Guidance, which is being regarded as a form of consultation document, both on what it says and on experience of applying it.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation paper should be sent to David Demain at Defra at control.pollution@defra.gsi.gov.uk and copied to the MEST contact below.</p>
Deadline for input: 16 May 2003
<p>Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):</p> <p>The Consultation Paper is available from the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste</p> <p>The Regulations are available from the HMSO website at www.hmso.gov.uk</p> <p>The directions are available from the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/wasteincin/index.htm</p>
Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: Waste Management Licensing: Waste Management Paper No. 4 (WMP4) – Consultation on revised guidance

Main Points:

Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) have issued a joint consultation on revised statutory guidance to the Environment Agency on the discharge of its functions in respect of waste recovery and disposal activities, which are subject to the waste management licensing regime.

The revised guidance to the Agency will be relevant to all waste recovery and disposal activities regulated under waste management licensing. Subject to the implementation of the necessary regulations, this guidance will also apply to recovery and disposal of some agricultural waste and mining and quarrying waste that is subject to the need for a waste management licence. The proposed guidance will not apply to activities operating under or being permitted under the Pollution Prevention and Control regime save where guidance on the PPC regime refers to WMP4.

Separate supplementary guidance is provided in WMP4A, for metal recycling sites. A decision on the need to revise the supplementary guidance to metal recycling sites will be made when the final form of the revision to WMP4A is known. Some parts of WMP4A are likely to be superseded where they are incompatible with the new guidance and because of forthcoming new legislative requirements in respect of the treatment of end-of-life vehicles.

The consultation package contains an executive summary of the key issues and requirements in the revised guidance and the draft guidance itself. To access the consultation papers please refer to our Hot links section below. Responses to the consultation paper should be submitted to Defra (e-mail: WMP4@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and copied to MEST.

Deadline for input: Friday 6 June 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):
www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wasteman/letter.htm

Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Environment

Issue: Industrial Air Pollution Control by Local Authorities - Air Fees and Charges Scheme 2003/2004

Main Points:

Defra has prescribed schemes in order for local authorities to levy fees and charges from industry who operate processes under three air pollution regimes:

LAPC: Part B processes currently regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1990;

LA-IPPC: Part A2 activities/installations which are subject to Local Authority regulated Pollution Prevention Control (PPC);

LAPPC: Part B activities/installations which will be subject to Local Authority PPC (Pollution Prevention and Control) air pollution control over a transitional period starting in April 2002. This will replace the LAPC regime from 1 April 2003

Further details can be obtained from the weblink below, together with a summary of responses to the fees and charges consultation that took place at the end of 2002.

Deadline for input: N/A

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consult/lapcfees02/index.htm>

Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Employment

Issue: EU Agency Workers Directive
<p>Main Points:</p> <p>The European Parliament completed its first reading of the proposals on 21 November 2002 and the European Commission published a revised draft of the proposed directive. The Council of Ministers has yet to reach a common position on the proposal and the working group will continue discussions under the Greek Presidency. There is still some way to go in the process before the directive is adopted.</p> <p>As well as feeding your views into us, you may also want to consider asking your European Trade Association to encourage its members to lobby their own Member States and similarly their own MEPs.</p> <p>The summary of responses, Regulatory Impact Assessment and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed from the link below.</p>
Deadline for input: Ongoing
Hot links (to further information/consultation documents): http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/agency/directive.htm
Contact us at: Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Employment

Issue: Work Life Balance

Main Points:

The Work-Life Balance campaign which was launched in March 2000, focuses on 3 key areas:

Working with business in the public, private and voluntary sectors to increase awareness of the benefits of flexible working

Providing information and guidance on how businesses can develop flexible working approaches

Supporting individual businesses through the Challenge Fund programme which provides free consultancy advice to employers to help them introduce flexible working practices

A report by the Institute for Employment Studies shows some small businesses save up to £250,000 on their budget by adopting family friendly work policies (Work-life Balance 2000 Baseline Survey, Department for Education and Employment)

Flexible working

The Government is committed to assisting working parents in ways that enhance business efficiency. From 6 April 2003 more opportunities will be available for parents to balance their work and childcare responsibilities to the benefit of employers, employees and their children. Parents with children under 6 or disabled children under 18 will have the right to request a flexible working pattern and their employers will have a duty to consider their applications seriously.

Child care - tax and national insurance exemptions

A consultation document on expanding the tax and National Insurance exemptions on employer-supported childcare has been published by the Inland Revenue and HM Treasury. Comments on the proposals should be sent to carolyn.mason@ir.gsi.gov.uk by 31 May 2003 and copied to MEST.

Deadline for input: 31 May 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

www.dti.gov.uk/work-lifebalance

Inland Revenue and HMT Consultation <http://www.hm->



treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/employer_supported_childcare/consul_childcare_index.cfm

Contact us at: ken.bruin@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Health & Safety

Issue: EU Physical Agents (Noise) Directive
<p>Main Points:</p> <p>The Directive, which came into force on 15 February 2003, aims to protect workers from risks to their health and safety arising or likely to arise from exposure to noise and in particular the risk to hearing. The UK has three years to transpose the Directive into UK law.</p> <p>The Directive will supersede the existing Noise Directive (86/188/EEC), which is implemented in the UK by the Noise at Work Regulations 1989.</p> <p>A Health Safety Executive (HSE) consultation document with draft guidance is likely to be published in February 2004. Further information on the Directive is available on the HSE website below. Whilst the formal consultation is some way off, we would like to better understand the likely impact on your company/sector. Please feel free to send your comments directly to us.</p>
Deadline for input: Ongoing
Hot links (to further information/consultation documents): www.hse.gov.uk/noise
Contact us at: Ambert.Prospert@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Health & Safety

Issue: EU Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive
<p>Main Points:</p> <p>The Directive, which came into force on 6 July 2002, lays down minimum standards for the health and safety of workers exposed to hand-arm and whole body vibration. The UK & other Member States have three years from the aforementioned date to implement the Directive.</p> <p>The Directive requires employers, where there is likely to be a risk from exposure to vibration, to reduce exposure to a minimum; provide information & training; assess exposure levels; carry out a programme of measures to reduce exposure and provide appropriate health surveillance when exposure reaches the exposure action value and, keep exposure below the exposure limit value.</p> <p>The UK will implement the Directive by Regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. An HSE consultation document will be published in Summer 2003. Further information on consultation and the timetable for implementation can be found on the HSE website.</p> <p>If you have any comments on how the Directive will affect your company/sector whether positively or negatively please feel free to send your comments directly to us.</p>
Deadline for input: 12 May 2003
Hot links (to further information/consultation documents): www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/issues.htm
Contact us at: Ambert.Prospier@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Industry Support

Metals Industry Competitive Enterprise - MICE (through METSKILL)

Achieving measurable improvements through lean manufacturing techniques and improving supply chains. Proven process improvement techniques are delivered by specially trained engineers. They work through on-site workshops with teams to identify actions and then follow-up to review progress and help with problems. Companies have achieved 45% reduction in set-up times, 76% reduction in downtime, £1m reduction in stock over 12 months and much more. The MICE programme has recently been extended and customised for SMEs. www.metalsindustry.co.uk Tel: 0114 244 6833

In addition to the main programme, MICE is supporting the Cast Metals Federation (CMF) in its pilot lean manufacturing programme to demonstrate how the castings sector can also use these new ways of working. Information is available as above or from www.castmetalsfederation.com Tel: 0121 601 6394

Manufacturing Advisory Service - MAS

Affordable advice from experts on manufacturing processes, technologies and problems. The Regional Centres for Manufacturing Excellence provide hands-on advice and assistance with problems, covering technologies, skills, best practice techniques, product development and even networking. Experienced experts (MAS Practitioners/Consultants) will diagnose problems and give tailored advice. They can also help you access more specialist sources of expertise. Expert centres are part of the National network of Advisers on whom the regional teams can draw but which companies may also wish to approach directly on their own commercial terms. <http://mas-london.co.uk/news.htm>

National Metals Technology Centre – NAMTEC

NAMTEC can signpost companies, particularly SMEs, to the most appropriate source of metals-related expertise and advice in the UK. They can introduce you to researchers and help with contract negotiation and independent technical advice. They will eventually fill gaps in the UK metals R&D facilities.

NAMTEC will provide information on all areas of metals technology and will be involved in the management of national and European metals related projects. By bringing collaborative R&D and implementation projects together, it can attract private, UK and

European funding. NAMTEC is in Rotherham until it moves to the new Advanced Manufacturing Park at Waverley.

www.namtec.org Tel: 01709 724990

Advanced Metals Technology Initiative – AMTI

To help UK metal producing and processing companies become world-class through the development of state-of-the-art casting and forging technology, access to lean manufacturing tools and new high technology opportunities. AMTI is a £10m project, funded by DTI, Yorkshire Forward, Objective 1 and the private sector involving several partners. It is working on:

Rapid product innovation in high performance castings

Simulation lean manufacturing tools for metal forming

New technologies for forging processes

New markets and products for the metals industry

For further information on how to benefit or participate, contact NAMTEC who are managing this programme.

Metformex

Metformex is the export focal point for the metal forming sectors and aims to improve the performance of the casting, forging and sheetmetal presswork sectors. Funded by Trade Partners UK, Metformex activities include inward and outward missions, training one-to-one support or other help to current and prospective exporters from existing export and trade promotion support.

www.metformex.com Tel: 0121 601 6391

PowdermatriX

PowdermatriX is the new Faraday Partnership for manufacturing by powder processing. Growing from the powder metallurgy, advanced ceramics, hardmetals and magnetics communities, a network of industrial and academic partners is being built. PowdermatriX will increase interaction, improve the uptake of new science and technology by manufacturing companies, and focus future research on commercially relevant topics for these industry sectors. A first call for research proposals to benefit from EPSRC funding has already been made. PowdermatriX is being co-ordinated by CERAM.

www.powdermatrix.com Tel: 01782 764444

Metskill

As the recognised leader on skills issues for the metals industry, and in addition to managing the MICE programme, Metskill provides strategic and practical leadership on a range of skills issues including skills gaps and shortages, workforce development plans, training frameworks and qualifications, standard and tailored solutions, and information on suitable providers. Topics covered include strategic management, leadership, teamworking, modern apprenticeships, metals Health & Safety passports and school-industry links and curriculum support materials.

www.metskill.co.uk Tel: 0114 244 6833

Environment Agency Guidance on environmental regulation for small businesses in the metals industries

The Environment Agency (EA) has published guidance on environmental regulation for metals production and processing sector. The EA has provided guidelines to those involved with:

The production of ferrous metals

The production of precious and non-ferrous metals

Forming processes for iron and steel

Wire drawing and

Metal casting

The guidelines aim to provide practical information on the actions that you must take to achieve compliance with environmental legislation. In addition, some 'good practice' guidelines are provided which, if followed, will help to reduce the impact, or risk of impact, of your business on the environment. www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs/sectors/438536/?lang

Materials and Engineering Sector Team Contacts

Director: Simon Edmonds

Deputy Director (Materials): Gerry Miles

Deputy Director (Engineering): Keith Hodgkinson

Cross-cutting Teams

Influence and Impact: Terry Martin (Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Knowledge Management: David Rose

Metals and Minerals Team

Contact: Zoë Dayan (Zoe.Dayan@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Responsible for:

Steel

Non-Ferrous Metals (Aluminium, Lead, Zinc, Copper and Nickel)

Industrial Minerals

Materials Processing and Recycling Team

Contact: Brian Greenwood (Brian.Greenwood@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Responsible for:

Castings

Forgings

Sheet Metals

Powder Metallurgy

Metal Finishing

Metal Packaging

Metals Recycling

Precision Engineering Team

Contact: Tony Keegan (Tony.Keegan@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Responsible for:

Industrial Robotics/Automation

Packaging Machinery

Printing Machinery

Commercial Catering Equipment

Machine Tools

Gauge and Toolmaking

Mechanical Transmission & Components

Process Plant and Products Team

Contact: Valerie Allcock (Valerie.Allcock@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Responsible for:

Engineering Construction

Process Engineering Contracting

Process Plant

Electrical Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution Equipment

Mining Machinery

Domestic White Goods

Contact: Jan Weston (Jan.Weston@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

(from 7th April 2003)

Responsible for:

Mechanical Handling

Railway Equipment

Logistics