HEOPS

Health Surveillance in the Higher Education Sector

Policy and Guidance

# Background

The higher education sector has significant and unique qualities that require special consideration

* Very extensive and wide variety of activities and hazards.
* Handling a wide range of materials many of them novel and handled in unique research situations
* Handling materials with specific, particularly hazardous or even unknown properties (eg nanoparticulates)
* Very flexible workforce with rapid rotation of personnel and academic management structure often with unclear hierarchies
* This poses problem both in determining the health surveillance that is appropriate and in the delivery of health surveillance programmes that are identified.
* This guidance describes the areas where health surveillance may be appropriate and gives advice on how they may be delivered

# Scope

This document provides guidancefor and the provision of health surveillance in the higher education sector.

It concentrates on those activities which are unique to the higher education situation. It includes surveillance required under legislation (eg COSHH) but includes other health surveillance according to current best practice

# Health Surveillance Guidance

Hazards for which health surveillance is likely to berequired:

* Noise in the workplace in excess of 85dB(A)
* Hand held vibrating tools generating more than 2.5ms-2
* Asthmagens such as animal allergens.

# Hazards for which health surveillance may meet the standards in regulation 11 of COSHH:

# ?

# Health Surveillance Process

* Risk assessment to establish where the risk is sufficient to warrant health surveillance (reference to the COSHH Regulations, EH40 Workplace Exposure Limits and the OH peer review literature will be helpful).
* Determining who requires health surveillance (reference to technical guidance to be developed)
* Creating and maintaining the “health record” and clinical records.
* Procedures for recall and attendance
* Health surveillance procedures and staff competencies (reference to external guidance)
* Auditing surveillance compliance
* Data protection and record keeping
* Measuring and reporting outcomes