

THE RISKS FROM THE IMPACT OF GOLF BALL

Please review your policy on head protection for Greenkeepers

It is acceptable for a greenkeeper not to wear head protection when golf is not being played – there is no hazard! However, out on the course after around 9.00am, the greenkeepers are likely to be exposed to golf balls and **MUST** wear some form of head protection. The main hazard is shots from the tee, as these create the fastest travelling ball (175 mph). This force dissipates by 100-120 yards. Protection for the greenkeeper must be to the temple and forehead areas – people die from such hits.

Greenkeepers working, or passing through the danger area (Errant shots can go 30 degrees on either side of the line of drive), working in bunkers, working in burns **MUST** wear some form of head protection. The ideal is probably a baseball hat with hard shell and padded inserts. A double woollen hat is an alternative as it can also give protection. Also temporary fencing or placing of tractor & trailer should also be used to give protection – see risk assessment for working in bunkers

It is not acceptable for Greenkeepers to work after 9.00am without some form of head protection.

VIBRATION UPDATE

There have been some advances in vibration for Greenkeeping equipment by the manufacturers

The new Toro 1000 and 1600 are now down at 2.89 m/sec/sec which means they can be used for 23 hours per day by an individual!!!

The Ryan Turf Cutter has now been reduced to 12 m/sec/sec which means it can be used for 1 hour 23 minutes by an individual! Please remember this is 'time on the trigger'

Are you buying hand or pedestrian equipment this year? Please check with the supplier **before you buy equipment** to ensure the vibration from the equipment is as low as possible.

Basically all hand or pedestrian equipment should ideally have hand vibration under 2.5 m/sec/sec. At this level you can use them for over 24 hours per day. If the vibration is under 5 m/sec/sec you can use it for 8 hours per day

However if the vibration is over 5 m/sec/sec you will be restricted in the number of hours it can be used by any individual in 24 hour period

5m/sec/sec can be used for 8 hours

7m/sec/sec can be used for 4 hours 50 minutes

9m/sec/sec can be used for 2 hours 28 minutes

11m/sec/sec can be used for 1 hour 39 minutes

Please look at your chainsaws, strimmers, blowers, turf cutter, & rotary mowers

Look up the calculator in the Vibration assessment in your MHSgolf Program for multiple items of equipment being used through the day.



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April 2011 Newsletter

Hi Everyone

The February Newsletter was delayed as new information on the Approval Dates of pesticides was due from the Pesticide Directorate. This continued through March, delaying the 2011 Update Disc being issued and so, the disc is enclosed and the Newsletter which is now the April Newsletter.

' the best laid schemes o' mice an' men, gang aft agley!'

Please note my email and webpage addresses above.

As usual should you have any queries or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me by Email.

Douglas.

Update of MHSgolf Program 2011-04-30

Over the year several things have been updated in Health & Safety. There are however several topics which require your attention.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

We have changed the Organisational Chart to a standard Excel sheet as many clubs are running older programs and the embedded chart caused problems and could not be updated.

THE AUDIT & THE EVIDENCE TRAIL

In a Health & safety Audit, questions are asked and evidence required. The basic premise is that 'if it is not in writing, it does not exist!'

The new General Arrangements in the program are divided into **Within the Clubhouse** and **Outwith the Clubhouse**. Please print out the relevant General Arrangements and note which topics not apply, mark them N/A (Not Applicable) and which apply to you.

There is a link to HSE, SEPA etc Brochures in the program which will give you the brochure issued by HSE. These brochures is on the disc as we have found that HSE and other government departments sometimes change their web page addresses regularly.

The items marked **not applicable** will confirm that you have considered them (do not delete them out as you would be destroying this evidence you have considered them).

The task you then must carry out is to be able to prove the arrangements you have made. This can be in the form of photocopies of letters, or invoices from contractors, certificates etc but must detail the job done e.g. an invoice for PAT Testing is not evidence that all portable appliances have been tested – labels fall off – a list of the appliances checked is required.

LEGIONELLA

In a recent newsletter I discussed this and asked you to do a risk assessment – several inspections of golf clubs by EHO have insisted on this.

ASBESTOS

Do you have asbestos or not? Whether you have or not, you require a statement to that effect, and if you have, you must detail where it is and your approach controlling the risk - several inspections of golf clubs by EHO have insisted on this. See MHSgolf Program : Section 6 Management Forms

PESTICIDE UPDATE

The pesticide Directorate has finally 'got the message' and is now allowing products to be approved for 10 years instead of 5 years.

Please look at the updated disc COSHH Pesticides and you will see that many of the chemicals are now cleared until 2021. The Pesticide Directorate reserve the right to foreshorten this should new research data advise the withdrawal of an active ingredient.

Please note that the following will be withdrawn this year – stocks must be used up before the date mentioned!

The safest way to get rid of a pesticide is to use it on the crop for which it is advised, in due season and in due approval date.

If you need to dispose after that date, it will be treated as **toxic waste** and you will be charged accordingly!

Agriguard Pro Turf 11837 is withdrawn from use by 31/12/2011

Daconil Turf 13602 is withdrawn from use by 31/08/2011

Daconil Weatherstik 12636 is withdrawn from use by 31/08/2011

Lunar 12366 is withdrawn from use by 31/08/2011

Mascot Contact 13718 is withdrawn from use by 31/08/2011

Praxys 13912 is withdrawn from use by 31/12/2011

Rezacur 13717 is withdrawn from use by 31/08/2011

WORKSHOP

The work being carried out in the greenkeeping workshop has now reached a level in many cases where we have had to expand the General Arrangements, Safe Working Practices and Risk Assessments. If this applies on your golf club, please review the relevant sections on the MHSgolf 2011 Program