

Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology

Health and Safety Charter

The Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology is committed to protecting the health and safety of all individuals in the department as well as the wider community and the environment. A statement of departmental policy is therefore issued annually, and detailed working procedures are also published annually.

The purpose of this Health and Safety Charter is to explain concisely the fundamental principles that are used to produce its policy statement. These fundamental principles, which are to be followed by all members of the department when dealing with health and safety issues, are as follows.

1. To comply with the Law.
2. To seek to continuously review safety standards and where appropriate raise the standard above the basic minimum required by Law and adapt them to changing demands and developments.
3. To ensure that people are working safely.
4. To make sure that safety is part of the everyday experience of being in the Department and is considered in all tasks.
5. To create a fair safety culture, which allows people to feel free to express opinions, or raise concerns about safety issues and to trust that they will be actioned.
6. To ensure that everybody understands and accepts their responsibility for safety and knows what is expected of them.
7. To give people a real understanding of the safety issues, involved in their work rather than just ticking a box..
8. To offer people in-house help and advice on safety, or if this is not possible, to direct them to others who can help.
9. To give people the training and knowledge to make the correct safety decisions about what they are doing and why.
10. To minimise the amount of paperwork required and to facilitate work wherever possible by avoiding unnecessary duplication, of either paperwork or effort
11. To provide safety information in a clear and concise way that is both easy to find and easy to understand.
12. To keep safety information updated, fresh and relevant.
13. To adopt work practices that minimise the risk of exposure to potentially harmful substances wherever possible.
14. To ensure that people work in such a way as to avoid any long term health consequences brought about by the work, either to themselves or to others.
15. To take special care, when working with high risk chemicals, organisms and procedures.
16. To take extra care when working at the edge of current knowledge.
17. To avoid the release of dangerous chemicals or organisms to the environment.
18. To minimise the impact of Departmental activities on the environment.
19. To send students out into the world, with sufficient safety information to promote safe and sensible working practices as they progress through their chosen career.