

We would love to hear from you....

Please do contact Helen Conlin, Newsletter Editor at specialinterestgroups@icheme.org about contributing articles or providing feedback and comment on: Good practice, previous SIG events, outreach (e.g. support to Universities, other institutions), or anything else that you think our readers would find interesting.

Introduction

Welcome to the October 2023 edition of the S&LP SIG newsletter.

Please use specialinterestgroups@icheme.org to contact anyone associated with the S&LP SIG.

This issue includes articles on [IChemE Guidance on Risk Management](#), [Burn Test for Plastics](#), [Legislation](#), [Hazards 33](#), [the Hazards Forum](#), [HEART](#), [Lesson Learned Database](#), [EFCE Events](#) and the [S&LP SIG Committee](#).

IChemE Guidance on Risk Management

S&LP SIG members played a key role in the development and publication by IChemE of Guidance on Risk Management. The topic was raised initially within the S&LP SIG committee and then discussed at the Major Hazards Committee.

The development of IChemE guidance on risk management was prompted by the UK Engineering Council providing new guidance on risk in 2021, aligned with the ISO 31000 standard on risk management. It was considered that ISO 31000 applies a definition of risk which diverges from the definition widely established and accepted within the safety /environmental regulatory context and applied by engineers within the process sectors.

The guidance was issued by the Major Hazards Committee in February 2023 and approved by the Learned Society Committee in April 2023.

The guidance is available [here](#).

Burn Test for Plastics



Screengrab from Forensics: The Real CSI, Series 3:3 Playing with Fire [BBC]

At the August S&LP SIG Committee meeting, IChemE member, David Kelsall, drew our attention a recent television broadcast (Forensics: The Real CSI, [Series 3, Episode 3](#)) about a major fire at a plastics recycling factory, which (unintentionally) highlighted the dangers of some plastics when in contact with a naked flame.

The focus of the programme was to highlight the extent of efforts that police and fire service investigators expend in order to gain sufficient evidence for a conviction. The officer involved expressed regret that the recommendation to prosecute an individual for arson was not taken up by the CPS.

However, we think that this was a preventable industrial accident and that the working practices in the factory should have been investigated and acted upon (Note: The Operator subsequently went into Voluntary Liquidation).

The programme appeared to show that it is common practice to burn solid plastics and use

the smell of the smoke to identify the plastic. Unfortunately, it appears that the plastic had not been extinguished before disposal.

Information online, for example from TWI (The Welding Institute) gives instructions on the '[burn test](#)' and also recognises Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy as an alternative method for identifying plastics.

Please contact David Kelsall and /or Sean O'Sullivan at specialinterestgroups@icheme.org if you would like to discuss further. In particular we are keen to hear from any readers who:

- ❖ Have knowledge and experience of good practice in this field.
- ❖ Are involved with workplaces performing plastic burn tests.

Legislation – UK Retained EU Law Bill

An update from the S&LP SIG former Chair Andy Rushton.

The Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill has now been enacted:

[Enacted REUL Bill](#)

The Act, in principle, enables 'A relevant national authority' (normally a Minister of the Crown, in England) to restate (Section 11), revoke or replace (Section 14), or update (Section 15) any REUL, as and when they see fit. However, the default – that REUL will be revoked unless explicitly saved at the end of 2023 – was dropped.

No proposals for changes to COMAH or other EU related legislation of interest to S&LP SIG have been announced.

There is fuller discussion on line, for example at:

[IOSH Update on REUL](#)

[Commons Library REUL Briefing](#)

[IChemE welcomes scrapping of REUL deadline](#)

Hazards 33

[Hazards 33](#) will take place in Birmingham, UK between 7 and 9 November 2023.

Many S&LP SIG members will be speaking, exhibiting and presenting and it is a fantastic opportunity to catch-up and share good practice.

If you have not yet booked your place – there is still time!

The Hazards Forum

IChemE was a founder member of [the Hazards Forum](#) in 1989 along with the other three main engineering institutions. The Hazards Forum has the mission to:

...enable interdisciplinary learning between professionals for the prevention and mitigation of hazards and disasters

The final event of 2023 is a hybrid event hosted by ICE, which is free for all to attend in person or online:

[Human Decisions and System Performance](#) 12 December 2023, hybrid event hosted by ICE, London

Please use the link above to find out more and book your place.

HEART Revised and Updated

Jerry Williams (originator of the method) and Julie Bell (long time collaborator of Jerry) have recently published the reviewed, revised and extended HEART 'Human Error Assessment and Reduction Technique', called HEART+. HEART+ is available in a manual for general sale at:

[HEART+ Manual](#)

Lessons Learned Database

One page summaries continue to be added to the [Lessons Learned Database](#).

A wide range of users continue to benefit from using and referring to the LLD and incident summaries continue to be added so it is worth checking regularly for new learning and resources.

EFCE Events

The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) runs a calendar of events annually. Details are available here:

[EFCE Events](#)

S&LP SIG Committee

The S&LP SIG committee last met on 20 February 2023.

Planned future S&LP SIG committee meeting dates:

- ❖ 14 December 2023
- ❖ 20 February 2024
- ❖ 18 April 2024

If you have something for the committee to consider, please contact Sean O'Sullivan, Chair, at specialinterestgroups@icheme.org.

We are grateful to those who take the time to contribute to the S&LP SIG Newsletter. Please note that content and opinions are those of the contributor(s) (or in resources accessed online) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Safety & Loss Prevention Special Interest Group Committee or the Institution of Chemical Engineers.