

**McMaster University  
Faculty of Engineering  
Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, March 10th, 2010

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

JHE A114

<b>Management Member</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Mukesh Jain (Co-Chair)	Mechanical	Present
Prashant Mhaskar	Chemical Engineering	Present
Yiping Guo	Civil	Present
James Chen	ECE	Regrets
Qiyin Fang	Engineering Physics	Absent
Doug Keller (Certified Member)	Management Cert. Member	Present
Marek Niewczas	Materials Science	Present
Carm Vespi	Alumni	Absent
Omar Danta	BTech	Present
Barb Eftekhari	Btech	Present
Robert Fleisig	Engineering I	Present
Vladimir Mahalec	SEP	Absent

<b>Worker Member</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
John Nakamura (Co-Chair)	Computing and Software	Present
Doris Stevanovic	CEDT	Present
Justyna Derkach (Certified Member)	Chemical	Present
Anna Robertson	Civil	Regrets
Kent Wheeler	Civil	Present
Terry Greenlay	Electrical & Computing Engineering	Present
Peter Jonasson	Engineering Physics	Present
Jeanne Norris	General Engineering	Present
Rob Lemmon	Materials	Regrets
Jim McLaren	Mechanical	Regrets
Elizabeth Takacs	MMRI	Present
Michelle LePalud	CUPE	Present
Jozef Verhaeghe	Mechanical	Present

<b>Consultants</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Sheila Rieth	EOHSS	Present

ISSUES FOR CENTRAL TO ADDRESS	Action Items
No comments.	

### 1. Minutes

<p>Minutes Approval:</p> <p>Dr. Mukesh Jain, Management Co-Chair: _____</p> <p>John Nakamura, Worker Co-Chair: _____</p>	<p>Approved February 2010 minutes were submitted to EOHSS on March 11th, 2010.</p>
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### 2. Business Arising

<p><b>ETB Safety Team Update:</b></p> <p>The importance of having representation for all departments in ETB was raised by D Stevanovic who mentioned an incident that occurred in February 2010 involving HCl.</p> <p>M Jain encouraged committee members to e-mail N Clark if they know someone who is interested in joining the committee.</p>	
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### 3. New Business

<p><b>Inspections in ETB – Who is doing them?</b></p> <p>The committee showed concerns for not having representation for certain departments already settled in ETB. A floor plan was requested.</p> <p><b>Securing Bookshelves:</b></p> <p>Y Guo asked if there was a protocol that states that shelves need to be braced and if shelves are allowed above entrance doors. S Reith responded that the Work Control Centre (x24740) can be contacted to request bracing jobs and most likely the centre will ask for a departmental account number to charge.</p> <p>S Reith e-mailed the committee the Shelving Units Regulations (Section 45 &amp; 46) – refer to attached document.</p> <p><b>Nano-Particles-Health Risk?</b></p> <p>M Jain Asked the committee regarding the use of nano-particles in different departments. Aluminum oxide nano-particles in liquid form are being used in Mechanical Engineering. The committee suggested that MSDS sheet should be available for this powder and recommendations given in the MSDS sheet should be followed pending any Canada/Ontario wide policy development in this regard.</p>	<p>J Nakamura will be checking with L Coslovi about the ETB's floor plan.</p>
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## 4. Incident Reports

<p><b>JHE 363</b> – A chemical engineering graduate student was melting Paraffin wax to coat starch samples. Suddenly the graduate student noticed that the wax was on fire spreading around a hot plate and the triple layered aluminum tray used to put in the wax had melted. She tried to extinguish the fire with salt (which did not work) and dialed 88. Corrective measures: Do double boiling instead of direct melting the wax and use smaller amounts of wax.</p> <p><b>JHE 367</b> – A chemical engineering graduate student was putting together a glass desiccator when the lid dropped and cracked. The student cut herself on a little chip near the handle of the desiccator. First Aid was applied by J Derkach. Corrective measures: The broken glass desiccator was disposed and replaced with a plastic one.</p> <p><b>ITB Simulator Lab</b> – A simulator operator was stepping off mobile steps in the simulator after loading a sample into simulator. She landed on the floor with the edge of her left foot resulting in pain in the left ankle. Corrective measures: Install handhold to side of simulator to improve operator balance and remove two front spring loaded wheels to prevent accidental movement.</p> <p><b>JHE 370, 370/A, 370/B</b> – A researcher and graduate students reported a strong odour of hydrogen sulfide in JHE 370. The students were advised to evacuate the room by D Keller. The source of smell was investigated by D Keller, J Derkach and EOHSS and found that the smell originated from the men’s washroom, JHE 125. Plumbers from Facility Services were using a commercial drain treatment that contained acid to unplug the drain which created hydrogen sulfide fumes. The smell dissipated with 15-20 minutes. Corrective measures: none</p>	
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## 5. Safety Reports

Area	Report submitted
CAS	No
Chemical Engineering	Yes
Civil Engineering	Yes
ECE	No
Engineering Physics and CEDT	Yes
General Engineering	No
Materials Science and Engineering	No

Mechanical Engineering	Yes
MMRI	No

Chemical Engineering – Inspected labs. No safety issues to report.

Mechanical Engineering – No major issues.

CEDT – Inspected labs and reported constrained space and safety issue. S Reith recommended for the CEDT department chair to ask the H&S co-chairs to write a letter to the persons responsible for the equipment for which a response should be received within 21 days. Outcome to be raised on April’s meeting.

Civil Engineering – Reported hazards from previous inspections that have not been fixed.

## 6. Central Committee Minutes/Incidents

January & February 2010 minutes have been posted on EOHSS website. CJHSC minutes can be found in the following link: <a href="http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/eohss/prevention/jhsc/">http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/eohss/prevention/jhsc/</a>	
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## 7. Other Business

No comments.	
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## 8. Re-structuring

D Stevanovic inquired about room ETB 320.	J Nakamura to check who the room belongs to.
M Jain provided J Nakamura the room inspection in Mechanical Engineering.	
ETB 529 – members not sure if the room belongs to the School of Engineering Practice, not sure if it’s a graduate student lounge room.	J Nakamura to check.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 14th, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in JHE A114.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you cannot attend this meeting please send regrets to G Rivas at

[engfac@mcmaster.ca](mailto:engfac@mcmaster.ca)