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MARIGOLD® INDUSTRIAL SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS KEY ISSUES

As part of the continual aim of getting closer to people with responsibility for workplace Hand & Arm Protection (HAP) to better understand the challenges and issues facing them, Marigold® Industrial recently teamed up with one of the UK's leading safety organisations to take part in a major survey.

Partnering the British Safety Council - which has over 8,000 members in 50 countries - BSC members were asked to voice their opinions on a wide range of HAP related issues.

The response was extremely positive with health and safety managers from industries as diverse as quarrying to food production and Transport and Distribution to Pharmaceutical manufacturing taking part.

The largest number of respondents came from the manufacturing and construction sectors alike with 23% and 15% of respondents coming from those industries.

Respondents were asked their opinions on a number of issues ranging from their main workplace hand hazards and how regularly workplace risk assessments were undertaken to knowledge and understanding of the European EN Standards.

Some of the key survey findings included:

- Chemicals and cuts were highlighted as the top workplace hand hazards
- 33% of respondents had reported an accident relating to the hands in the last 3 years
- 61% of respondents did not measure workers hands and a further 10% did not know if workers hands were measured
- Two thirds of respondents were aware of the European EN standards, however 54% of those who were aware of them did not know what they meant or used them as a way of helping select the right gloves.
- 54% of respondents did not provide training on correct glove donning/doffing

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"We were both delighted and in some cases, really quite surprised with the results of the survey which has provided us with a wealth of really good end user feedback and intelligence that will undoubtedly help us further develop the level of support we are able to provide our customers.

"Getting this type of feedback direct from those people with responsibility for workplace hand and arm protection is invaluable. Some of the responses served to confirm what we already knew in terms of major types of injuries and hazards and the main sources of product information that businesses rely on. However some findings were extremely interesting and provided real food for thought, such as 61% of respondents confirming they did not measure workers hands to know what size gloves to supply and a further 10% not knowing if hands were measured.

"Another key finding was that whilst 67% of respondents were aware of the EN Standards associated with safety gloves, 54% of them did not know what the standards meant or how to use them. The fact we now have this information means we can address some of these key issues and start to plug what is a clear knowledge gap out there in the workplace," said Marigold Industrial Ltd International Marketing Manager, Donald Gillespie.

"By listening to the needs, concerns and wishes of health and safety managers as a result of the survey we are best placed to ensure that the feedback we are getting is translated into both the educational and manufacturing aspects of our work, and plan to roll out surveys like this to industry specific sectors," he added.

QUOTE FROM BSC - Matthew Holder to supply

Matthew Holder, Head of Campaigns and Engagement at the British Safety Council said, "We really appreciate our members support as part of our work with Marigold Industrial on the campaign Changing Habits. Their contribution to this survey has highlighted real issues on the use of hand and arm protection, and with this information we can together better educate, inform and drive positive change for workers. It is especially important that smaller businesses have access to and understand standard workplace practice. We can help to change bad habits but it's better to develop good ones in the first place."

Marigold Industrial Limited continues to be instrumental in raising awareness of HAP with the launch of its new Chemical Permeation Chart and global, interactive web game, Glove Up.

The new Chemical Permeation Chart comprises a 12 - page guide identifying the performance and protective qualities of their gloves, against more than 140 common chemicals.

The simple to use and easy to understand guide helps the user to select the right glove against a wide range of common workplace chemicals – giving key breakthrough time (BTT) information delivered in colour coded levels, ranging from level 1 – less than 10 minutes protection to level 6 offering over 480 minutes breakthrough time.

In addition to having performance data listed for over 20 of our key chemical protective gloves, the new chart also includes permeation performance and breakthrough time information for its disposable gloves, which have been tested against almost 100 workplace chemicals.

In addition to their common names, the chemicals listed throughout the new chart also have their Chemical Abstracts Service Registry (CAS) Number listed.

Available in printed or electronic format plus an online recommendation guide is another useful tool Marigold® Industrial provides.

'Glove Up' – www.marigold-industrial.com/en - sees players put their skills on 3 levels of difficulty trying to equip virtual members of staff with a pair of gloves from the company's new cut resistant Puretough™ P Series, which features the new Indicator System.

Launched in October, running until the end of 2011, players will be ranked by their scores, the person with the highest score at the end of the year taking the first prize of a 2 night trip to Portugal for 2 people. Other prizes available for high scorers will include an iPod® Nano, a set of mobile speakers and for the highest weekly score a USB stick.

For more information ...

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