

USING THE INTERNET FOR YOUR QUERIES

Many of the enquiries received by the BLF concern requests for information on chemical hazards, aspects of legislation, occupational health and hygiene, environmental issues, etc.

As many members may not be aware of the wealth of information available via the internet, this article identifies a number of useful website addresses, which can often provide the necessary information.

There are two methods for conducting a search; either one can use a search engine to conduct a search for you, or if the appropriate website address is known, it can be accessed directly.

Search Engines

Typical search engines include Alta Vista, Euroferret, Excite, Hotbot, Inference Find, Infoseek, Internet Sleuth, Lycos, UK Academia, UK Index, Yahoo and Yahoo - UK and Ireland. Alternatively, one can use a more sophisticated search engine of search engines, such as Copernic 2000 V4.5, which is available as a free download direct from: - www.copernic.com This software actually simultaneously conducts a search of a number of the most suitable conventional search engines.

When conducting a search, it helps to have a clear understanding of what you need, i.e. think in terms of related terms (both broader and narrower), synonyms, other chemical names or appropriate legislation. Also, read the help or search tips indicated by the particular search engine. Differences in spelling (e.g. English/American) may also need to be taken into account. Many search engines also make use of Boolean operations to refine searches. These consist of the words AND, NOT or OR to express logical processes. For example, if you are searching for information on tank bunding, by entering tank AND bunding, all located records will include both these terms. Mines NOT methane will find all references to Mines but will exclude those references also including methane. The OR operator is useful when searching synonymous terms, e.g. polycyclics OR polyaromatics (strictly speaking these terms are not synonymous but are often confused in literature).

WEBSITE ADDRESSES

Many websites will contain the required information, although one may have to search within the website to locate it. For example, one may wish to identify all HSE publications on metalworking fluids, a search of the HSE website will identify nine HSE publications on the subject, together with order references.

USEFUL SITES

For information from UK government sites:

<http://www.hmso.gov.uk> (UK Legislation)

<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm> (Statutory Instruments)

<http://www.ukstate.com> (The Stationery Office) This site provides a wide variety of information about UK Government publishing services, and also the text of some of their latest publications.

<http://www.context.co.uk> (UK Legislation - Information Sources)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk> (Health and Safety Executive)

<http://www.detr.gov.uk> (Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Contains a large and growing amount of UK Department of Environment information, including daily press releases and air quality forecasts. Also Air Quality Archive under miscellaneous.

Links to other environmental sites).

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>. (Environment Agency, UK is well structured and new information is constantly appearing. Facility for ordering free leaflets and also contains the Chemical Release Inventory.

These sites vary in terms of their degree of sophistication and the amount of information available, but they are being continually updated and improved. For information on countries other than the UK

<http://www.hspublishing.com/hsworld>

Chemical Sites include

<http://www.cia.org.uk> (Chemical Industries Association site containing information on e.g., Responsible Care)

<http://www.rsc.org> (Royal Society of Chemistry)

<http://www.chemweb.com>

In addition to the above, there are a vast number of HSE-related websites, some of which are listed below.

<http://www.behavioural-safety.com>

Behavioural Safety brings the latest news in the world of Behavioural Safety, Safety Culture and other related topics. The site gives details of books, conference papers, professional magazines, contacts, training courses, links and much more.

<http://www.coatings.org.uk>

British Coatings Federation extensive site which contains information, latest news, training, publications, industry facts, frequently asked questions and links to sites worldwide.

<http://www.bl.uk>

British Library information sources in the UK and through GABRIEL to Europe. Gateway to scientific, technical and medical information. British Library List of current journals/serials received at the UK British Library - 64,000 titles listed A-Z under title. Go into Online and then the Current Serials.

<http://www.bmj.com>

British Medical Journal - BMJ Home Page

<http://www.bohs.org>

British Occupational Hygiene Society is a multidisciplinary learned society, which has members in over 30 countries.

<http://www.bre.co.uk>

Building Research Establishment - BRE UK - useful for UK publications and links to fire and construction organisations.

<http://www.cieh.org.uk/cieh>

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) of the UK. Extensive information sources covering publications, events, seminars and exhibitions, training services and details on how to become an environmental health officer. List related organisations and activities.

<http://www.rsc.org/isc/chcs/chcs.htm>

Chemical Hazards Communication Society of the UK. Active group which holds meetings, shares information and produces a Newsletter.

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/Chemistry/Links/links.html>

Chemical information for chemists. Contains extensive information, MSDS, journals, and many links to other useful chemical sources of information.

<http://www.natfocus.uwic.ac.uk>

Chemical incidents hotline based at the University of Wales in Cardiff which aims to provide a 24 hour, 365 day a year service to receive notification of incidents in the UK and to provide a contact point for Government. It also aims to alert officials at the Departments of Health for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales to public health aspects of chemical incidents and to provide information on such incidents.

<http://enviro.mond.org/current/home.html>

Chemistry and Industry Magazine linked with the Society of Chemistry and Industry

<http://www.citb.org.uk>

Construction Industry Training Board. Information on publications for vocational, craft, operative, pre-vocational, technical, supervisory and management training, and health and safety publications.

<http://www.open.gov.uk/cdsc>

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre - UK

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