



GENERAL STATEMENT of HEALTH & SAFETY and RISK ASSESSMENT

The Centre for Life is a purpose built and modern facility and fully meets all current fire & building regulations. The design process of both building and fit-out fully considered the Health and Safety needs of mass by visitors

The Chief Executive and his Directors of the Company regard the promotion of health and safety measures as a mutual objective of both management and employees. It is therefore the company's policy to take any reasonable action to prevent injury and damage to property, and to protect everyone, the public and centre staff, from reasonably foreseeable hazards in so far as they come into contact with the company or its services or products.

The Company is committed to provide a safe place to visit and a safe means of access and egress within all parts of the centre. Safe access and egress includes movement in and out of the centre and safe access within the centre. The philosophy of risk assessment is well understood. There is an ongoing training process and all annual tasks; occurrences and practices will undergo risk assessment.

Fire

The buildings are covered by a fire certificate, the terms of which are fully complied with.

There are well-established, written evacuation procedures and staff are fully trained in both personal and visitor fire safety. The departments are well equipped with regularly maintained fire fighting equipment and fixtures and fittings are of a low combustible nature. The entire building is covered by a combination of heat and smoke detection and a sprinkler installation. The alarm is audible throughout the building and connected directly to the Fire Brigade. As well as internal checks and staff training in fire and bomb evacuation procedures, external specialist contractors give extra training where necessary. All systems are tested and certificated annually by external specialist contractors.

Although the Centre is accessible by large numbers of people the management process, building specification, regular staff training and maintenance regime make fire risks low.

Show equipment

All equipment is maintained by a team of in-house specialist technicians of suitable experience and training, supported by external specialist maintenance contractors. Portable and fixed electrical testing (P.A.T.) will occur annually. All equipment is to be regularly inspected and any faults rectified to ensure that it is maintained in a safe condition, including logged daily visual checks of all equipment used by the public and staff. There are strobe lighting effects and moving video and film images used within the exhibition area.

Life Lab

Due to the nature of the facility, all workshops and chemicals have been logged, correctly stored, labelled and risk assessed. All new chemicals/workshops will undergo risk assessment.

Life Lab is also a member of ASE (Association for Science Education) as well as the Health and Safety Committee for Schools, CLEAPSS (Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services).

Staff

All staff selected to work within the education department or elsewhere in the Centre with responsibility for children under the age of eighteen are appointed subject to a formal check at the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CRB) in addition to taking up normal references. Further CRB checks are taken periodically during employment.

Signed on behalf of Life Science Centre.



Elizabeth Dean, Deputy Director