



General statement of health and safety and risk assessment

The Centre for Life is a purpose built and modern facility, which fully meets all current fire and building regulations.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Life regard the promotion of health and safety measures as a mutual objective of both management and employees. It is therefore Life's policy to take any reasonable action to prevent injury and damage to property, and to protect everyone, the public, staff and other visitors to site, from reasonably foreseeable hazards they may encounter at Life or its services or products.

Life 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 include movement in and out of the Centre and safe access within the centre. The philosophy of risk assessment is well understood. This is an ongoing training process and all tasks, working practices and workshops undergo risk assessment.

Fire

The buildings and premises are fire risk assessed on an annual basis.

There are well-established, written evacuation procedures and staff are fully trained in fire safety. 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 contact with the Fire Service is made via control room. As well as internal checks and staff training in emergency evacuation procedures, an external specialist advisor gives training where necessary. All systems are tested and certified annually by external specialist contractors.

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

Lifelab

Due to the nature of the facility, all workshops and chemicals have been logged, labelled, correctly stored and risk assessed. All new chemicals and workshops undergo risk assessment. Lifelab is a member of Association for Science Education (ASE) as well as the Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services (CLEAPS).

First aid arrangements

Life complies with The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981.

To ensure adequate cover during opening hours, there are sufficient staff trained in First Aid at Work. Training is provided by recognised organisations and renewed every three years to maintain qualifications.

First aid supplies are stored in several locations throughout the premises. A first aid room is in the Centre reception, with equipment and facilities to allow treatment of visitors or staff where required. A defibrillator is kept in control room, and several staff are trained to use this. If the defibrillator is needed a member of control room staff will take it to the location by quickest route.

Staff

All staff selected to work at Life are appointed subject to a formal check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in addition to taking up normal references. Further DBS checks are taken periodically during employment.

Signed on behalf of Life Science Centre



Kate Peel,

Director responsible for Health and Safety.