

## Manawatu Health and Safety Forum – Health Monitoring

**Notes from:**

	<b>Venue:</b> UCOL	
<b>Date:</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> July 18	<b>Time:</b> 4.00pm – 5.00pm	
<b>Chair:</b> Tony Greeve	<b>Host:</b> UCOL and Site Safe NZ	

**Attendees:**

Name:		Company:		Name:		Company	
1	Karen Coe	Alliance Group Ltd, Dannevirke		Annette	Newbury	OSSL	
2	Evan Lloyd	Horizons Regional Council		Matt	Hillas	TDDA	
3	Sharon Dahlkamp	DML Painters Ltd		Michael	Morris	ACC	
4	Mike Walton	Mech Agriculture		Steve	Cowan	Techlam	
5	Rob Blackmore	Fieldair Engineering Limited		Allyson	Harwood	Midway Occupational Health Service	
6	Denise Steele	Maycroft Construction Ltd		Sylvie	Hickton	UCOL	
7	Stu Malins	Maycroft Construction Ltd		Sarah	Clarke	Massey	
8	Richard Chapman	Ernslaw One Ltd		Adrian	Velich	Worksafe	
9	Neil Robbie	Robbie Builders Ltd		Jen	Trow	UCOL	
10	Vanessa McAdam	Worksafe		Nathan	McGaviston	Techlam	
11	Simon Kuiti	Worksafe		Debra	Perrins	Worksafe	
12	Lynton Edgecombe	Turks		Tony	Greeve	Site Safe NZ	
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**Apologies:**

Name:		Company:	
1	Bruce Lambie	Blackley Construction Ltd	
2	Donna Craig	Nebulite Aluminium PN Ltd	
3	Bredon Barnett	BB Construction Ltd	
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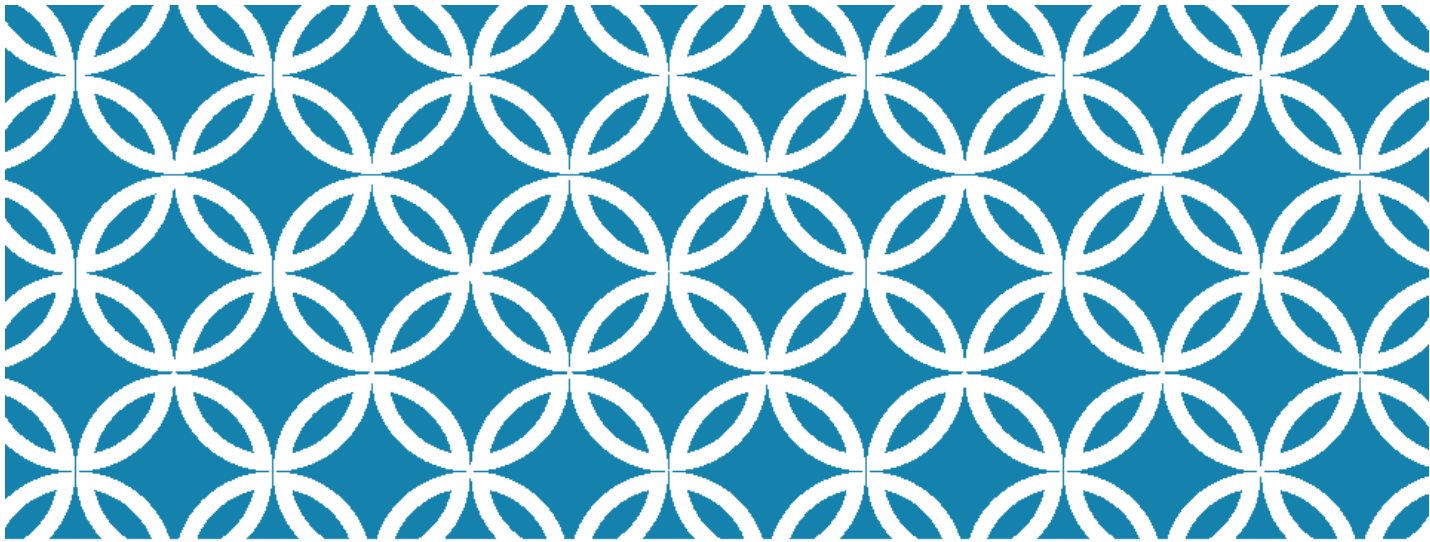
The forum was attended by 24 representatives of industry from the wider Manawatu Region.

**Welcome:**

Tony welcomed everyone and gave a short emergency briefing prior to the presentation. Debra Perrins presented the information regarding the requirements for Health Monitoring and Monitoring conditions in the workplace.

A copy of the presentation is attached as PDF document. Double click on the picture below to open it

**Manawatu Health and Safety Forum presentation on Health Monitoring and Monitoring Conditions in the Workplace**



## NOISE IN THE WORKPLACE



This is the link to the UTube video shown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGajKKeQ0Os>

The following is taken from the Worksafe Website and includes links to some of their fact sheets

### What is health monitoring?

Health monitoring involves testing a person to identify any changes in their health status because of exposure to certain health hazards arising from their work, such as noise or contaminants in the air like hazardous dusts, fumes or vapours. It is a way to check if a worker's health is being harmed by the work they do, and aims to detect early signs of ill-health or disease.

Health monitoring can show if a business has in place effective risk management practices.

Examples of health monitoring include:

- spirometry testing to detect early changes in lung function

audiometric testing to detect early hearing loss. Health monitoring is not:

- wellbeing checks (for example, cholesterol checks) or programmes (for example, promoting healthy living)
- fitness-to-work examinations.

See the [Health monitoring fact sheet](#) for more information.

Because of the long period between exposure to a health hazard and harm occurring, a business should not rely solely on health monitoring. The combination of health monitoring along with exposure monitoring gives more insight into the effectiveness of controls in a workplace.

# What is exposure monitoring?

Exposure monitoring involves measuring and evaluating workers' exposure to a health hazard. It includes monitoring the conditions at the workplace, as well as biological monitoring of people at the workplace.

Exposure monitoring can be used to find out if workers are potentially being exposed to a hazard at harmful levels, or to detect whether the measures in place to control exposure to that hazard are working.

- Exposure monitoring usually involves having workers wear personal monitoring equipment as they do their job. Examples of exposure monitoring include: monitoring the level of noise a worker is exposed to
- monitoring the air a worker breathes to check how much of a substance they are inhaling
- testing workers' blood or urine for the presence of a harmful substance or the by-products of a substance. This is called biological exposure monitoring.

See the [Exposure monitoring fact sheet](#) for more information.

## What about Workplace Exposure Standards

There was some discussion about what acceptable levels of exposure workers might have to substance before those substances become harmful to their health. The following link will take you to the part of the website relevant to this subject: <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/work-related-health/monitoring/exposure-standards-and-biological-exposure-indices/>

The following is an extract that provide an overview or introduction to that document, hopefully it will give you an indication of how these Exposure standards are applied:

### Target Audience

The Workplace Exposure Standards (WES) are intended to be used as guidelines for people qualified in occupational health practice.

PCBU's and people with duties under HSWA and the HSNO Act may use this book as a reference: but it is recommended that specialist advice is sought prior to engaging in monitoring programmes or exposure control.

It is not recommended that untrained persons use WES to determine 'compliance'. Professional judgement is required in making decisions regarding safe levels of exposure to chemical and physical agents found in the workplace.

### Legal Requirements

WES are an important tool for monitoring the workplace environment. Where hazardous or toxic substances exist in the same environment as workers and the PCBU is unable to successfully eliminate the substances from working environments, they are required to minimise and monitor worker exposure. The PCBU must also, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that the health of workers and the conditions at the workplace are monitored for the purpose of preventing injury or illness of workers arising from the conduct of the business or undertaking.

Section 36 of HSWA act requires PCBU's to ensure workers health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable. That duty requires the PCBU to eliminate risk to health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable. If it is not reasonably practicable to do so the PCBU must minimise the risk so far as is reasonably practicable. If a PCBU is uncertain on reasonable grounds whether the concentration of a substance exceeds the relevant prescribed exposure standard, regulation 30 of the GRWM requires the PCBU to conduct exposure monitoring to determine the concentration of the substance. Regulation 32 of the GRWM regulations requires the PCBU to make the result of exposure monitoring available to any person in the workplace who may have been exposed to the health hazard provided that no information that identifies an individual is disclosed. A prescribed exposure standard is a workplace exposure standard or a biological exposure index that has the purpose of protecting persons in the workplace from harm to health and that is prescribed in:

- a) Regulations
- b) A safe work instrument(including a safe work instrument that replaces a workplace exposure standard or biological exposure index in an instrument referred to in paragraph (A), (C), (D), or (E))
- c) A control under section 77 or 77a or an exposure limit under section 77B of the HSNO Act
- d) A group standard approval issued under the section 96b of the HSNO Act
- e) A notice of transfer under section 160a of the HSNO Act as in force immediately before 2 July 2006 (when that section of the act expired) and that was in force immediately before that date.

Regulation 8 of the GRWM Regulations requires the PCBU to review and, as necessary, revise control measures if the results of exposure monitoring carried out under regulation 30 determine that the concentration of a substance hazardous to health at the workplace exceeds the relevant prescribed exposure standards.

In workplaces where a worker is carrying out ongoing work involving a substance that is hazardous to health that is specified in a safe work instrument as requiring health monitoring, regulation 31 of the GRWM regulations requires the PCBU to ensure that health monitoring is provided to the worker if there is a serious risk to the workers' health because of exposure to the substance. Regulation 39 requires the PCBU to give results of health monitoring of a worker to that worker.

The underlying message I take from this discussion is that Health Monitoring and Monitoring of conditions in your workplaces needs to be managed and managed well.

The people who can provide the best advice on what you could and should do in this regard are the professionals with training and experience in this field.

While there are other providers in this field, we have two active members of the Manawatu Health and Safety Forum who are able to provide that advice, their contact details are as follows:

<p><b>Allyson Harwood</b> Midway Occupational Health Service Managing Director 06 3553134 Work 027 4303325 Mobile ally@mohsl.co.nz 37 North Street P O Box 5475 Palmerston North 4441 www.midawayohs.co.nz</p>	<p><b>Annette Newbury</b> Occpational Support Services Ltd Health &amp; Safety Advisor  06 3537060 Work 021 2131754 Mobile ganewb@outlook.com P O Box 10032 Palmerston North</p>
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Debra can be contacted as follows: [debra.perrins@worksafe.govt.nz](mailto:debra.perrins@worksafe.govt.nz) 0274999714

**The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.**

**Manawatu Health and Safety Forum presentation on Health Monitoring and Monitoring Conditions in the Workplace**

## **The date of the next planned meeting**

The next Manawatu Health and Safety Forum had been planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> October however the team from Building Skills Maintenance (BSM) are running their twice annual "Road Show" on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Here is the link to the site so you can see what's being discussed and register to attend:

<http://www.bsm.org.nz/>

With that in mind we will reschedule the next meeting for the Manawatu Health and Safety Forum into November and will advise you of the actual date in due course, possibly the 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. We will look for a subject for the forum following on from the BSM Road show but we are always happy to hear from you if you have a particular subject in mind.

If you have any questions about involvement with the Manawatu Health and safety Forum, please contact:

Tony Greeve, Site Safe NZ Inc.

[tgreeve@sitesafe.org.nz](mailto:tgreeve@sitesafe.org.nz)

021 557 402