

The Diffusive Monitor

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Health and Safety Executive
Committee on Analytical
Requirements
Working Group 5

By way of Introduction

Welcome to the twelfth edition of *The Diffusive Monitor*, which is a free publication of the Health and Safety Executive CAR Committee (Committee on Analytical Requirements), Working Group 5. This working group is concerned with workplace and environmental applications of diffusive sampling for assessing air quality.

The newsletter was started in May 1988 as a consequence of the Diffusive Sampling Symposium held in Luxembourg the previous year and is published approximately once a year. It contains articles on diffusive monitoring techniques and applications, and is a useful source of information on European and international standardisation in this area and of sampling rate data. Contributions are mostly from members of the Working Group, which has an international membership.

Contributions to the newsletter are not intended to be exclusively from HSE/CAR/WG 5, and any reader is welcome to submit a contribution for consideration. The only limitations are that contributions should concentrate on diffusive sampling applications and should not be too obviously commercial.

The newsletter has a world circulation of some 200 people, all of whom have specifically requested the publication, so you wish to contribute articles can be assured of a wide and receptive audience. Articles are not peer-reviewed, but are subject to the Editor's discretion.

Copies of the newsletter may be obtained by registering at richard.h.iacs.brown@hsl.gov.uk (see page 15)

Current News

CEN Air Quality Standards

Two new European Directives on Air Quality have been promulgated recently, namely a Chemical Agents Directive (98/24/EC) [1] and an Ambient Air Directive (96/62/EC) [2]. The first concerns the workplace and the second outdoor air, but both require an assessment of air quality and both imply a requirement for actual measurement. If measurement results are to be comparable across Europe, there is also a requirement for standardisation of such measurements, either as defined reference methods or as method performance requirements. The task of standardisation in the field of measurement is ultimately the responsibility of the European Commission, but it usually devolves this responsibility to Scientific Expert Groups, reporting to the Commission, or to Technical Committees of CEN, the Comité Européen de Normalisation. The development of standard measurement procedures, ideally meeting the CEN performance criteria, is also the responsibility of ISO, the International Organisation for Standardisation.

Ambient Air Standards

The task of developing appropriate standards for ambient air quality measurements within the European Community has been carried forward by

