

# Occupational Health for JET

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# Provided by

- Capita Health Solutions – private contractor to UKAEA
- Services, when initially provided (and until 1997), were in-house
- Provided from dedicated facility on Culham Science Centre site
- Provided Monday to Friday, normal working hours

# The team

- Occupational Physician (part-time) – appointed under IRRs
- Occupational Health Advisors
- Administrative support
- Physiotherapist
- Local management

# The Service

- Emergency treatment, backing up site First Aiders
- Health Surveillance
- Advice on health matters affecting work
- Emergency exercises
- Other services available e.g for EURATOM staff

# Health surveillance

- Ionising Radiations (IRRs)
- Beryllium
- Respiratory Protective Equipment
- Others e.g. Fork Lift Truck operation
- According to statutory or advisory protocols
- Records and certification

# Ionising Radiations

- According to specific regulations (IRR, 1999)
- Requires Appointed Doctor
- Pre-employment, periodic and special
- Format mainly statutory
- Subject to HSE audit
- Few exclusions, some restrictions

# Respiratory Protection

- Covered generally by regulations
- Main concerns are full face respirators, and air-fed suits, hoods and blouses
- Standards and procedure not laid down, but agreed locally
- Common health concerns and age

# Beryllium

- Health surveillance programme since late 1980s
- Essentially clinical assessment, based on HSE guidance
- Gas transfer tests initially included periodically instead of regular Chest X Rays
- Annual assessments

# Beryllium

- Assessments OHA (nurse) based
- Specific attention to history of respiratory and skin conditions and allergies
- Questionnaire
- Adequate lung function required
- Occupational Physician review
- At least 300 assessments a year

# Beryllium HS -outcomes

- Gas transfer test problematic – abandoned
- Lung function abnormalities common
- Various non-specific skin problems
- Other general pathology, most non-work related

BUT

- No case of CBD so far known of from JET

# Further Beryllium issues

- Risk of CBD at JET expected to be lower than in some other environments
- Long term follow up limited to date
- Influence of other factors at or outside work
- BeLPT has not been used for screening

# Beryllium cuts

- Protocol for cuts and wounds
- Swab, irrigate and swab
- Several a year
- Generally low levels of Be if any