

Dear «First»

Welcome to the December Issue of our newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful, restful and refreshing season. Whether it is a time for family, fun or feuds we hope you have a chance to recover from the last year and prepare for the next.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Ergonomics: Real Design

The Ergonomics Society is dead! Long live the Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors (IEHF)! In line with many of the other Societies and Institutes around the world, our professional body in the UK has joined the throng in using both of the most popular phrases / names applied to what we do.

The process of changing all the branding and launching the website will extend well into next year but the logo has been revealed as shown above.

Please look at their current website for information about the process and what



it means for letters after your name, logos on your website and opportunities to introduce customers to the benefits of our trade.

The events of the 60th year continue with the excellent exhibition at the Design Museum, 'Ergonomics: Real Design'.

Much has been made of the most aesthetically pleasing items in the past, such as the Sky remote control or mobile phones, but this expands the public

Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors

understanding of human factors and ergonomics in the design of control rooms, safe equipment, patient requirements and disability as drivers for innovation.

Features have been in the national press and the BBC has posted an article and video clips on their website.

Congratulations IEHF!

Check [this page](#) for the details and links.



New Video Stress Resources from the HSE

Following the real success of National Stress Awareness Day in November, the HSE have been promoting their stress resources for SMEs.

The excellent items include booklets, information and some very well developed video shorts. There are a few cases represented and varied situations developed through to successful outcomes. It appears that the HSE agree with most individuals: that so many problems at work are down to poor managers and management techniques.

In many businesses, fighting the economic downturn or trying to develop through the

next stage of growth from small to medium sized business, lead to managers being given responsibilities for which they have never been trained. They often cannot adapt to their new roles and cause difficult situations for colleagues and other staff. They may have been able to apply their energy to tendering for new business, doing the accounts and writing the reports but when it comes to managing others they may do more harm than good.

As Ergonomists and Human Factors specialists, we

should ensure we are very familiar with these resources and guide customers towards them.

The acceptance of a need for change will benefit so many aspects of a customer's business and should encourage the development of more specific skills in managing people and behaviours.

Check the [Stress pages](#) on HSE's site.

[Email](#) any questions
Or call on:
0800 612 7970



Design Safety in Children's Equipment & Toys

Just after we published the last newsletter, there was an article in the Guardian by Robert Booth, on how Maclaren were recalling nine of their pushchair models due to 12 amputations of children's fingertips by the hinge mechanism in the US. Perhaps most surprising is that this British company were not recalling the same models in the UK because they have passed EN1888 European Safety Standard.

It raises significant questions over the effectiveness of the British & European Standards (or the build quality of the US models perhaps?). One suspects that the reason is more financially driven; in

that the UK legal system dissuades many from the pursuit of damages that we may see from these cases in the US.

When safety has clearly failed in a product, all the rubber handles and extra storage cannot help it earn the term 'ergonomic'.

The British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA) require their members' items to pass rigorous tests for a varied range of situations, based on past experiences and accident statistics.

The website is informative and (although possibly graphically aimed at younger audiences) well presented. You can watch



Maclaren Pushchair

videos of product tests to determine velocity, choking hazards and Teddy burning, while marveling at the poor ergonomics of the lab layout!

Links in the [Members Section](#) of our website.

[Email](#) your examples of unsafe design to us.

Batteries Not Included (or needed!)

Since Trevor Baylis OBE first invented his revolutionary wind up radio in 1994 the push for 'personal power' has been adopted by the 'eco friendly' sites and manufacturers. The search for applications of power generation through the adapted dynamo system, (first developed in the 1830's) has lead to some extremely varied items. As well as hundreds of radios, torches and torch radios, there are electric razors, children's toys and media players. Trevor Baylis has



also led this market with the Eco Media player which has music, video, data storage, photoview, the obligatory radio and torch, as well as a phone charger, external speaker, sound recorder and ebook viewer! 1 minute winding should provide up to 40 minutes audio play! One expects

this figure to be taken with a pinch of salt for many of the other features but it still represents a huge step forward in the field. Ergonomics is being considered for functions, usability of increasingly complex software and the biomechanics of winding the handle.

We are currently looking for feedback from anyone who has used this item and can comment further on the usability aspects.

Please send comments to:

enquiries@ergonomicsconsortium.com



This is supposed to be the funny bit...

After the Christmas excess, it's time to work it all off... on the escalator?!



NEXT YEAR - Review of 2009

To remove your name from our mailing list, please send a blank email to remove@ergonomicsconsortium.com