



The University of Hong Kong

SAFETY MATTERS

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To: List "C"
Also posted in the Intranet

Ref. Scalding Risk – Drinking Fountain

It has come to our notice that some drinking fountains or drinking fountain-cum-water-dispensers installed for public access pose a scalding risk to persons who drink direct from the outlet.

In some designs, the fountains are provided with a small diameter goose neck which is connected to hot water supply. In some arrangements, output water temperature can reach 80°C depending on the intended use. Some drinking fountain users who are used to only cold water supply elsewhere drink direct from the goose neck for various reasons without first realising it is of hot water supply. Serious burns of the mouth and face could occur. A red discharge press button cannot be assumed to have adequately indicated a scalding temperature.

For safety reasons, please arrange a check of all the drinking fountains. The following measures are to be taken if there are installed the above described drinking fountains.

1. Evaluate critically whether or not hot water supply is necessary from the goose neck.
2. If so, what temperature is needed? Check with the machine supplier to ascertain the output temperature if necessary.
3. Label and indicate the temperature of the hot water supply if it exceeds 30°C.

For further enquiries please contact the Safety Office.

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