

## SAFE HANDLING OF SHARPS POLICY STATEMENT

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 imposes statutory duty on employers to ensure in so far as is reasonably practicable the health and safety of their employees whilst at work. This duty also extends to the employee to take care of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts and omissions.

Sharps include needles, razor blades, broken glass or other items that may cause a laceration or puncture.

The risks of problems consequent upon a needlestick injury are low. Essentially, the hazards are of straightforward bacterial infection and blood borne virus infections such as viral hepatitis (B, C, D and G) and HIV.

### PRACTICE

It is the policy of Predator Pest Control PLC (in so far as is reasonably practicable) that the following points are implemented when dealing with Sharps

Used sharps should be handled as little as possible to minimise the risk of injury

- **Always wear disposable Latex gloves.** Latex can reduce the risk of transmission of a blood borne virus by 50% from a contaminated needle. Sharps safe gloves should be worn over the latex gloves. A pair of forceps or other suitable tool must be used to pick up any sharps. Pincer poles should be used for handling bedding and clothing when clearing houses.
- Used needles **must not** be manually resheathed, bent or broken prior to disposal.
- All sharps containers **must** be correctly assembled and correctly labelled clearly to identify source and used according to the manufacturers' instructions.
- Sharps **must never** be carried in the hand to the point of disposal, but either carried in a tray or a sharps container brought to the sharp.
- Sharps **must not** be passed by hand between staff.
- Sharps bins **must** never be more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  filled. Sharps protruding from the aperture present a major hazard to other users.
- Used sharp bins **must** be stored in a location that precludes unauthorised access.
- Sharps bins **must** always be sent for incineration.

### EMPLOYEES

The co-operation of all employees is vital to achieve the Company aims. **Every employee must realise** that he/she has a legal duty while at work,

- To take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and other persons.
- To co-operate with the Company in all matters relating to health, safety and welfare.

### GENERAL

In accordance with Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Company will,

- Review the working of this policy annually.
- Amend and update the policy as necessary. Communicate any changes to all employees.
- Provide this written statement on its general policy on Health and Safety and the organisation and arrangements for carrying it out.

Handwritten signature of Douglas Bralsford, appearing as '13d' with a small flourish below.

Douglas Bralsford  
Managing Director  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2001

Handwritten signature of Graham Limer, appearing as 'GL' with a horizontal line through it.

Graham Limer  
Technical Director  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2001