Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Health and Safety policy of:

Applied Acoustic Engineering Limited
Marine House, Marine Park
Gapton Hall Road
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk, NR31 ONB

General Statement

The company recognises and accepts its responsibility under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, for ensuring so far as it is reasonably practicable the health, safety and welfare of its employees while at work.

The company attaches great importance to health and safety considering this to be a management responsibility.

It is the policy of the company to take all reasonably practicable precautions for the prevention of accidents, incidents, dangerous occurrences and ill health together with the creation of working conditions which safeguard all employees and visitors. It is considered to be one of the most important functions of management and employees. To this end, the company will allocate the necessary resources and enlist the active support of its employees upon duties to meet all required statutory obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

The company regards the standards set by the various relevant statutory provisions as the minimum to be achieved and will endeavour to improve on these where reasonably practicable.

Objectives

- To promote high standards of health, safety and welfare within the company and to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory provisions.
- To ensure the provision and maintenance of plant and safe working practices that are, as far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without avoidable risks to health.
- To ensure that all articles and substances provided for use in company activities do not present a risk to health and safety as far as reasonably practicable.
- To ensure that all staff are competent to do their tasks and are provided with adequate instruction, training and supervision.
- To ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, any place of work within the company's control is maintained in a condition safe to work without avoidable risks to health, and access to and from is achieved safely.
- To ensure as far as is reasonably practicable a suitable working environment is provided and maintained safe without avoidable risks to health for all staff, contractors, students and visitors, and have adequate facilities and arrangements for the welfare of all staff whilst at work.
- To ensure all staff are consulted on matters affecting their health and safety.
- To increase training relating to health, safety and welfare, developing staff awareness and responsible attitudes to safety.
All employees in the company have a duty imposed upon them by the Health and Safety at Work Act to:

- Take responsible care for the health and safety of themselves or other persons who may be affected by their actions or omissions at work.
- Co-operate with the company in the measures taken to safeguard health and safety at work.
- Report to persons in authority any defects which adversely affect health and safety at work.

It should be noted that disciplinary action may be taken against employees who flout the requirement placed upon them by statutory provision and the company safety rules. It is an offence for any person to intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare in pursuance with any of the statutory provisions.

The breach of statutory legislation can lead to criminal prosecution of the company and where applicable, employees, from which a guilty verdict can result in heavy fines and/or imprisonment.

The Q.H.S.E & Logistics Manager is responsible for the day to day management of company health, safety and welfare, utilising third party organisations and consultants when specialist advice or assistance is required.

The Managing Director has overall and final responsibility for health and safety. The Managing Director is responsible for ensuring that the company health and safety policy is implemented in practice and is communicated to all managers and staff.

Through continual monitoring of company activities, this policy will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. On issue of a new revision, all staff will be made aware and a copy will be displayed on the company notice board.

Signed: ________________________ Date: _______________________
Managing Director

Written By: J. Eman
Amended By: J. Eman
Checked By: A. Darling
Approved By: A. Darling
Organisation

Managing Director

Has overall and final responsibility for health & safety throughout the company. Ensuring as far as reasonably practicable, adequate resources are made available to enable an effective health & safety policy to be implemented throughout the company. Responsible for setting policy, objectives and targets, and ensuring all staff are made aware. To actively promote the company's commitment to health & safety by attending regular health & safety meetings and promoting a positive attitude to health & safety through leading by example.

QHSE & Logistics Manager

Responsible for day to day management of health & safety throughout the company to comply with the policy and work towards achieving set objectives and targets, including but not limited to;

Chairing health & safety meetings and recording minutes.
Organising and conducting safety inspections.
Evaluating and initiating training as required.
Ensuring equipment and plant is monitored, inspected, tested and serviced as required.
Providing health & safety advice and training.
Conducting risk assessments and implementing control measures.
Implementing and reviewing safe working practices and procedures.
Ensuring personal protective equipment is provided as required with training.
Conducting accident, incident & near miss incident investigations and provide reports.
Organising occupational health surveillance for employees requiring it.
Liaising with third party organisations, consultants & specialists regarding health & safety matters.
Ensuring all contractors appointed to undertake work on the premises have been checked for competence, liaising with managers who have undertaken the checks for contractors working in their own areas of responsibility.

Ensuring the health & safety management system is up to date and complying with current statutory regulations and requirements.

All Managers

Responsible for checking day to day compliance with the policy in respect to their departments, staff and themselves, including but not limited to;

Communicating with and supporting staff responsible to them on health & safety matters, promoting feedback for any health & safety issues.
Attending health & safety meetings, representing the departments they're responsible for.
Assisting in implementation of safe working practices and conducting risk assessments.
Ensuring implementation of corrective and preventive control measures through risk assessments, audits, inspections and recommendations.
Ensuring their staff receive adequate instruction, supervision and training.
Assisting in monitoring, inspection, testing and servicing equipment and plant as required.
Ensuring that all contractors that are appointed to undertake work for them in their own areas of responsibility are competent to do so, liaising with the QHSE & Logistics Manager.
QHSE Assistant

Responsible for assisting the QHSE & logistics Manager with the day to day management of health & safety throughout the company to comply with the policy and work towards achieving set objectives and targets. To provide assistance to other Managers and all other members of staff at the request of the QHSE & Logistics Manager in order to comply with the policy and to assist the company fulfil its statute duties.

All other members of staff

Responsible for taking care of the health & safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their actions or omissions. To co-operate with their managers to ensure compliance to the policy and to assist the company fulfil its statute duties. Ensuring anything provided to safeguard their or anyone else's safety is not interfered with. Ensuring any matters of health & safety concern are reported to their managers.

Fire Marshals

Responsible for managing the safe evacuation of the building during an emergency. Ensuring fire hazards are reported, escape routes are clear, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting & fire alarm systems are serviced, tested and operational.

First Aiders / Emergency First Aiders

Responsible for administering first aid to injured persons. - Preserving life, preventing deterioration of condition and promoting recovery.

Health & Safety Advisers / Specialists

Third party organisations, consultants or specialists called upon for advice on compliance issues, protective control measures and for assistance if an accident occurs that requires specialist investigation. Occupational health professionals called upon for advice and the undertaking of employee occupational health surveillance.
Arrangements

Risk Assessments

Suitable and sufficient risk assessments are undertaken by competent persons for processes and tasks to identify significant hazards which have the potential to do harm. The risks that may arise from the hazards are assessed and decisions are made on suitable measures to eliminate or control the risk. Risk assessments are undertaken when new equipment, substances, processes, tasks or areas of work are introduced and when an element of an existing process or area changes.

The following types of risk assessment are undertaken;

General Risk Assessments (RA) – For repeatable processes and tasks undertaken on a daily basis (Form HSF001).

Point of Work Risk Assessments (POWRA) – For a single task, non-repeated or rarely required tasks (Form HSF012).

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Risk Assessments (CRA) – For processes or tasks that involve substances which are potentially hazardous to health (Form HSF005).

Fire Risk Assessments – For identifying the fire risk to people and precautions to take to ensure the safe emergency evacuation of areas of work.

With the exception of the POW risk assessments that are undertaken at the time required, all other risk assessment types are reviewed on an annual basis. Fire risk assessments are undertaken by a third party organisation specialising in fire safety as detailed in the Fire Safety Policy HSM004, all other types of risk assessment are undertaken internally. All staff involved with the elements assessed are consulted during and after the assessment process. Acknowledgments are obtained from staff to confirm they have read and understood the risk assessments. Risk assessment policy and the process to undertake is documented in HSM 003.

Accidents, Incidents, Dangerous Occurrences

Any accident, incident or dangerous occurrence is recorded and investigated to determine the immediate, underlying and root causes. If the unplanned, uncontrolled event is determined to be reportable under RIDDOR, then the QHSE & Logistics Manager will report to the HSE or enforcing authority online via www.hse.gov.uk/riddor or via telephone (0845 300 9923) in the required timescales. Subject to the investigation findings and recommendations, actions will be taken to prevent further unplanned, uncontrolled events from occurring as far as reasonably practicable.

All staff, visitors and sub-contractors are requested to report any unplanned, uncontrolled events to the manager they are working for. The QHSE & Logistics Manager is then liaised with for the investigation process and compilation of the report (Form HSF030). If staff, visitors or sub-contractors feel or are made aware of any incidence that may compromise their or others safety, they are encouraged to report to a senior member of staff who will take appropriate action.

Accidents are recorded in the accident book and retained by the Managing Director in a confidential employee file.
Emergency Procedures

Fire marshals are trained and appointed to ensure; Regular fire drills are undertaken effectively, routes of escape are kept obstruction free, fire action plans are updated regularly and fire precaution measures are taken and are in order. A fire risk assessment is carried out to ensure adequate fire precautions are taken to prevent risk of harm to people and that emergency evacuation can be performed safely. An emergency procedure is in place for safe evacuation in case of fire (EP001). Signage is provided to identify and locate the fire marshals should they be needed. Fire Safety Policy HSM004 is in place detailing responsibilities, arrangements and procedures.

First aiders and emergency first aiders are trained and appointed to ensure emergency first aid is available should anyone require it. Suitable and appropriately stocked general first aid kits are provided and specific provision is made for hazardous areas. An emergency first aid procedure for electric shock is displayed in the appropriate hazardous area. Signage is provided to identify and locate the first aiders should they be needed.

Emergency action plans are in place for workers using the chemical rooms, high voltage test areas & test tank areas detailed in the safe working practices for the areas and instruction is provided to all users.

Safe Plant and Equipment

Any requirement for new plant or equipment is assessed to ensure the most suitable solution for the task or processes is sourced, identifying any operator training, specific operating requirements (lighting, temperature, etc.) and personal protection required. It must be fit for purpose, have the appropriate approvals, testing carried out, certification, and conform to relevant legislation and as far as reasonably practicable safe to use.

A written scheme of examination is in place for the compressed air system and has a thorough examination annually by a third party inspection company.

The hydrostatic pressure test system has a thorough inspection every four years by a third party inspection company and is visually inspected by a competent person on a weekly basis. The pressure relief valve and high pressure hoses are inspected, tested and certified annually.

Local Exhaust Ventilation systems, fume cupboards and a bead blaster/dust collector are checked and cleaned weekly by the users, checked for performance faults monthly by competent staff and all thoroughly examined and tested annually by a third party inspection company with the exception of the bead blaster/dust collector which is undertaken every 6 months.

The hydrostatic pressure test gantry/trolley/chain hoist, test tank hoist, sheave blocks and all lifting accessories are visually checked by the user before use and thoroughly examined by a third party inspection company every 6 months. Servicing of hoists and associated equipment is undertaken annually by a third party servicing company.

The fork lift truck is visually checked by the operators daily before use, serviced by the rental company twice a year and thoroughly examined by the rental company annually.

The hydraulic pallet trucks and lifting tables are visually checked by the users before use, serviced by a third party servicing company every 6 months and thoroughly examined by a third party inspection company annually.

The pillar drill and guard are visually checked by users before use and weekly by the QHSE staff.

Portable tools and equipment are visually checked before use and are stored in safe environments.

Portable appliance and fixed electrical testing is carried out on electrical plant as required by the schedule.

The roller shutter doors are inspected and serviced every 6 months by a third party servicing company.

The oil fired heating boiler is serviced annually by a third party company.

Cont...
The test tanks are inspected for leaks and fixed earths checked every two months. Defective plant or equipment is reported to the responsible manager, tagged and removed from use until suitable repairs or replacement is made.

Safe Handling, Storage and Use of Hazardous Substances

Processes and tasks requiring the use of hazardous substances are assessed under the COSHH regulations. The hierarchy of control is utilised to determine the safest methods of use and control measures to put in place to protect the users against exposure. All staff involved with the process are consulted during the assessment and instructed after.

The essential information provided to staff consists of the maximum use per day of the substance, contact details of the manufacturer/supplier, effects to the body from exposure, first aid measures, control measures required to prevent exposure, safe storage and handling, spillage procedure, environmental protection, correct disposal methods and fire safety information.

Control measures in place to protect the users c/o local exhaust ventilation systems in workshops, two hazardous chemical fume cupboards, Atex rated zone 1 fume cupboard, Atex rated zone 2 storage, portable fume extraction systems with HEPA filtration, general ventilation, PPE provision and a dust collector. Industrial hygiene practices, safe working practices and work instructions are followed supported by MDI badge monitoring and health surveillance where required. COSHH awareness information and warning signage is in place where appropriate.

Separate flammable and hazardous storage cabinets are provided along with combined flammable & hazardous storage cabinets. Spillage containment materials are provided and storage for waste materials awaiting disposal.

Lead free soldering and components are used for all general electronic work. Leaded solder is still in use in small amounts for high voltage applications to ensure the target acceptance criteria can be achieved without compromising safety or operational reliability. Control measures are in place to protect the users from exposure.

Electrical Safety

All electrical equipment manufactured for sale undergoes portable appliance testing (PAT) by competent persons after manufacture ready for shipping to customers. All operational portable electrical equipment undergoes regular PAT testing on a schedule determined by the location, type of equipment and how it’s used. Maintenance to the sites electrical systems is undertaken by certified external contractors who also undertake fixed appliance electrical testing every 5 years.

Safe working practices are followed by competent staff when working on mains, low and high voltage equipment. Physical barriers and signage are in place to prevent access to the high voltage test areas by unauthorised persons. Insulated barriers, mats, earth rods and PPE are used when working on high voltage equipment. Electrical power emergency stop switches and equipment earth points are provided in areas with high voltage activities.

Young persons are not permitted to work on any live electrical equipment.

Written By: J. Eman
Amended By: J. Eman
Checked By: A. Darling
Approved By: A. Darling
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If specific work activities require use of PPE as a final stage protective control measure, all staff requiring it, are issued with their own PPE appropriate for the activities to be undertaken. All staff receive instruction on its use, care, storage, replacement and disposal, signing to acknowledge receipt and that instruction has been understood (HSF004 & HSF006). Consultation is made with the PPE manufacturers/suppliers for suitability and instruction provided if required. Self-inflating gas charged life jackets are provided and serviced annually for test tank users and offshore users.

Control of Sub-contractors and Visitors

Before work is carried out on premises by sub-contractors, liability insurance and competence is verified and where applicable, a suitable and sufficient risk assessment should be undertaken by the sub-contractor. Should a permit to work system be required for any work in hazardous areas by sub-contractors, it will be addressed at that time for implementation.

All sub-contractors and visitors to the premises are provided with a visitor information sheet (HSF024) containing information on fire safety, hazardous areas/activities, reporting of potential hazards or events, first aid, welfare, smoking & communication whilst on site. Any additional health & safety information is discussed if non-standard activities are taking place at the time of the visit. Acknowledgement of receipt, reading and understanding of the information sheet is signed for (HSF025) and a visitor’s badge is provided for identification. For security reasons, staff are instructed to challenge visitors who do not have visitor badges on display and are unfamiliar to them. All sub-contractors and visitors are required to sign out at reception when leaving the premises.

Monitoring, Inspections and Audits

Regular safety inspections are undertaken to identify any potential workplace hazards that could cause harm and ensuring they are removed or effectively controlled (HSF037 & 026). Incorporated in these inspections are checks of fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, escape routes/exits, any trip/slip hazards, lighting, walkways, general housekeeping, pillar drill emergency stop operation/guard condition, test tank/HPT system hoists emergency stops, high voltage test area earth points, testing of the fire and test tank call points together with the design and production emergency electrical shut off systems. To prevent the risk of legionella from standing water, the shower is operated weekly. The high voltage dummy loads and fixed earths on the test tanks are inspected and tested every two months. (HSF018, 021, 022, 023 & 026). See the Safe Plant & Equipment and Working at Height sections for more inspection details.

Annual Health Surveillance is undertaken in conjunction with user MDI badge monitoring to monitor the effectiveness of control measures in place to protect staff when using hazardous substances that require it. Regular inspections and testing of the LEV systems are undertaken to ensure continued effective operation. Offshore medicals are carried out on staff employed for field work providing equipment support to clients off site.

Health and safety meetings are held to review and discuss all aspects of health, safety and welfare within the company’s operations. The meetings are chaired by the QHSE & Logistics Manager who also provides minutes, the Managing Director attends with other responsible Managers as required. Feedback from staff is discussed and information is provided to all staff relevant to their job function. The meetings aims are to identify any problems or areas that could be improved, organising actions and reviewing performance, forming a key part of the monitoring and audit process.
Working offsite

Staff working away from site for clients or for equipment trials conduct point of work risk assessments (POWRA) before commencing work to ensure adequate precautions are taken and control measures are in place to safely undertake work. Staff have the right to refuse to work on a client’s site if deemed unsafe to do so, as detailed in the health and safety at work act and in the terms and conditions.

Staff working for clients abide by the clients health & safety rules and procedures, providing a copy of the AAE health & safety policy at their request. Provision of the public liability insurance certificate is available to clients by request from the main office.

Staff using motor vehicles for travel to and from offsite working or visits, abide by the company’s vehicle policy, HSM002 & Company Handbook and are to drive in accordance with the law.

Information, Instruction, Training and Supervision

The current Health and Safety Law poster is displayed in the main corridor with information completed for internal and external contacts. Public liability insurance and fire certificates are on display in the reception area. A copy of the current health and safety policy is on display on the company notice board. Health & safety posters are in place for manual handling, COSHH awareness and electric shock.

All health and safety information, documentation and the company handbook is available to every staff member via their own computer workstation linked to the company server. Communication is made via verbal, paper and email methods with electronic or written acknowledgement as appropriate (HSF008). Instruction is provided for safe working practices in hazardous areas, risk assessments, manual handling, safe use of substances and use and care of PPE. Instruction is acknowledged by both the instructor and staff members signing a confirmation (HSF004, 007 & 008). Safe working practices, work instructions and permit to work systems are currently being developed, implemented and reviewed for hazardous area and process work with input from all levels throughout the organisation.

The company provides resources for external training for first aid, fire marshals, risk assessment, manual handling training trainer, offshore survival, portable appliance testing, fork lift operators, abrasive wheels and powerboat use. Only competent staff with appropriate training and experience are permitted to undertake tasks which are required of them, unless supervised or are in the process of training and are under instruction. Certificates are displayed for the competent persons who complete the training.

Induction training is undertaken when new staff members join the company and when work experience/apprentices are taken on. The induction training covers fire safety, all hazardous areas and equipment, first aid, health & safety responsibilities, duties, documentation and information provision, company structure, smoking policy, access and egress and a tour of premises with introductions to all staff. Additional basic training may be provided depending on experience which includes soldering, computer use, workshop practice, industrial hygiene, use of test equipment etc. The manager responsible for the new staff member conducts the training and both the manager and the new staff member acknowledge the completion of training by signing the induction record (QF022).

Careful supervision is provided for children on work experience by competent persons throughout their period at work. Apprentices have careful supervision by competent persons for the first three months until familiar with tasks undertaken and when given new tasks to undertake. Supervision is still provided after these periods but not on continuous one to one basis. The externally trained manual handling trainer instructs all AAE staff including young person’s present for work experience.

Cont..
Warning signage identifies and is present in all hazardous areas. Walkways are identified and mandatory action signage is present where required. Fire safety signage including identification/location of fire marshals, fire action plans and safe condition signage is in place where required. First aid location signage and first aider identification/location signage is in place.

**Working at Height**

The company uses ladders and stepladders for occasional infrequent activities by competent users. The ladders and stepladders are recorded on the ladder register (HSF038) which identifies the ID, class, location, inspection frequency and service status. Each ladder and stepladder is identified with a ladder tag indicating when the next inspection is due. If a ladder or stepladder fails an inspection, it is identified with a tag and locked up to prevent use. Users undertake pre-use inspections and will undertake a point of work risk assessment (POWRA) for the activity required.

Kick stools are used for manual handling operations in the stores areas, a specific risk assessment is in place for their use including a safe working checklist for users.

**Young Persons**

The company actively participates in the provision of work experience for school children (16 yrs or less) and in apprenticeship training for young persons (school leaving age of 16 yrs to under 18 yrs). Specific risk assessments are undertaken and provided to the school/college and parents. Consideration is made for the lack of experience, awareness to risks and vulnerability of being not fully physically developed.

Supervision is provided by competent staff for guidance and to ensure safe working practices are followed (See supervision section).

**Welfare**

Adequate facilities are provided for washing with sinks and a shower. Separate lavatories are provided for male, female and for disabled. A canteen area is provided with an adequate seating area for staff to eat and provision of a refrigerator and hot and cold drinks.

Adequate ventilation, lighting and workspace is provided, suitable for the tasks undertaken and the amount of staff, together with additional air conditioning.

Sub-contracted cleaners are used to maintain a clean working environment.

Adequate car parking and bicycle storage facilities are provided. Safe access is provided and maintained with provision made for wintery conditions (ice/snow).

The company is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its employees in respect of workplace stress, the company policy on stress can be found in the Company Handbook.

**Display Screen Equipment (VDU Workstations)**

VDU Workstation assessments are undertaken for staff as required, to minimise musculoskeletal work related upper limb disorders injuries, visual problems and psychological problems such as stress. Changes of activity and regular breaks are taken by staff that use DSE for their everyday work activities, and may not be permitted to use DSE during break periods.

Appropriate training is provided when required and eye tests are available to staff using DSE who request it.