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Safety and infection control in the spotlight

This month's *Health Estate Journal* will be published just before Healthcare Estates 2017 opens in Manchester. The annual IHEEM show is acknowledged as the sector's most all-encompassing UK event, and this year – with the conference presentations covering three key areas – Strategy and Leadership, Engineering and Facilities Management, and Planning, Design and Construction, and the exhibition featuring over 220 companies, there should be more to see, discuss, and debate than ever.

Members of the *HEJ* editorial and advertising teams will be on hand on the IHEEM stand, J1, and we will be delighted to see both existing contacts and those keen to find out more both about contributing editorial to, or advertising in, the Institute's 'official' journal.

This month's edition includes an in-depth article on the key changes to HTM 06-01, covering 'Electrical services and supply distribution', recently revised, and an expert look at recent updates to the D 08 Supplement to HTM 04-01 – which covers thermostatic mixing valves. The updates are designed to save engineers time by considerably simplifying in-service auditing and testing of 'TMVs'.

Infection prevention and control is a perennial concern for healthcare estates management and engineering teams, and there is also a detailed look at the background to the

Department of Health's 2016 updating of its guidance for surgical instruments, HTM 01-01, *Management and decontamination of surgical instruments (medical devices) used in acute care*, based on evidence from DH-commissioned research to understand the epidemiology of variant CJD and the transmission of prion protein. A number of other articles on related topics – from effective cleaning techniques to a look at copper surfacing's benefits in combating infection – are complemented by a report on last month's 'IHEEM 2017' conference in Cardiff, where water safety, wider infection control, and electrical safety, were major themes.

The Cardiff event proved a popular and well-attended one, with some first-class presentations, and the chance for healthcare engineers from all over the UK to discuss and debate the latest thinking on some of the most pressing issues for them.

It is always good to see how manufacturers are taking forward product development, and I also report on an interesting trip to the Avignon R&D centre of dry construction material specialist, Etex, where innovation and forward-thinking were very much to the fore. I hope to see many of you in Manchester.

Jonathan Baillie | Editor

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COVER STORY

Delabie to unveil new mixer at Healthcare Estates 2017

Delabie will showcase its new pressure-balancing mechanical mixer, the Securitherm EP Biosafe, at this month's Healthcare Estates 2017 event in Manchester.

The company said: "Its unique design, with no spout, a smooth interior, and low water volume, limits bacterial development considerably, and makes the mixer ideal for healthcare installations."

The EP pressure-balancing cartridge delivers a constant mixed water temperature regardless of pressure variations in the system. The mechanism also reduces the hot water flow significantly if the cold water supply fails, reducing the risk of scalding. A pre-set maximum temperature limiter provides additional anti-scalding safety.

To aid infection control, the mixer's 'unique design' restricts water volume in the body by almost 85%, 'minimising biofilm development'. Its smooth interior also reduces biofilm attachment. Moreover the mixer has no spout,

incorporating Delabie's Biosafe outlet directly into the mixer body.

Delabie added: "The 26216EP mixer withstands thermal shocks at line temperature. Pressing the red button behind the control lever overrides the temperature limiter without removing the control lever or shutting off the cold water supply. The mixer is fitted with flow rate limiters set at 4 litres/min at 3 bar. Water consumption is reduced while guaranteeing user comfort. Its simple form reduces the build-up

of dirt, and facilitates cleaning. Installation is straightforward, as the mixer has rotating copper tails, again ideal for healthcare."



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