



PR692 issued: 01/09/2005

Antimicrobial Copper Interest Group – Inaugural Meeting

Copper Development Association is providing an opportunity for healthcare professionals, designers and equipment suppliers to hear Professor Keevil present his research demonstrating rapid antimicrobial activity of copper against MRSA with 99.9% inactivation in 90 minutes.

CDA is announcing its inaugural meeting of the Antimicrobial Copper Interest Group – a group comprising healthcare designers, architects, infection control managers, product manufacturers and material suppliers which aims to provide information and networking opportunities to exploit copper's antimicrobial properties in healthcare facilities.

Contaminated surfaces in hospital environments, especially those around infected patients, are recognised as an important source of cross-contamination between nursing staff and patients. Copper and its alloys are naturally hygienic, making them ideal for door handles, push plates, light switch plates, bed rails, intravenous poles, drug trolleys, worktops and grab rails. These touch surfaces are all potential reservoirs of infection, and reducing numbers of live germs on these surfaces could help in controlling the spread of MRSA and other hospital-acquired infections. Copper alloy products retain their antimicrobial property throughout their lives and can tolerate scratches without any loss of effect.

“The scientific evidence of copper's antimicrobial effect is compelling and now we are inviting all interested parties to join the Antimicrobial Copper Interest Group so that we can accelerate the introduction of hygienic copper alloy surfaces into hospitals to help tackle the problem of hospital-acquired infections” says Angela Vessey, Director of Copper Development Association. She adds:

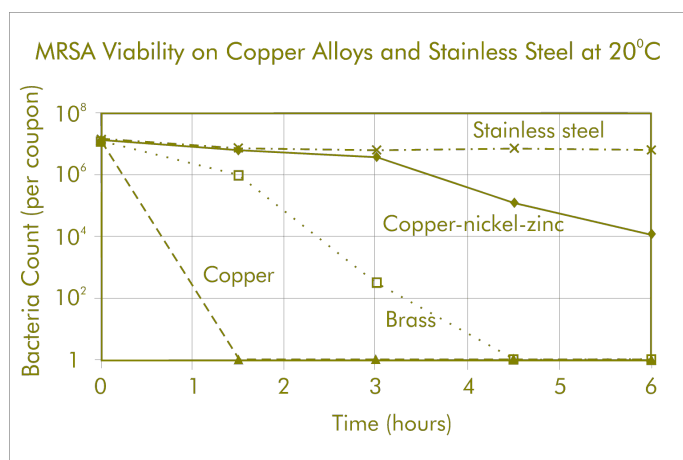
“At the inaugural meeting you will have the chance to hear Professor Keevil present his results, first hand, and then join in the discussion on how this science can be applied”.

The meeting will be held at the Thistle Birmingham City Hotel on the 29th September from 10.30am – 3pm and will start with the scientific evidence of copper's antimicrobial effect. The first speaker will be Professor Keevil, University of Southampton, who will present his latest research on the antimicrobial effect of a range of copper alloys on pathogens including MRSA, *E.coli* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. This will be followed by Professor Rob Reed,

Northumbria University, with a presentation on his field study on water sanitisation by brass vessels.

The afternoon session will focus on the application of the science. Ken Kempson, Consultant Design Engineer to CDA, will give a presentation on the opportunities for reducing reservoirs of infection in healthcare facilities with copper alloy surfaces. This will be followed by an overview on alloy choice and manufacturing methods and a discussion forum.

For further details of copper's antimicrobial properties and the Antimicrobial Copper Interest Group visit www.cda.org.uk/antimicrobial. To reserve a place at the meeting contact gareth.price@copperdev.co.uk.



Source: University of Southampton, Keevil et al. 2004

Survival times of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) on three copper alloys and stainless steel at room temperature.

Copper - commercially pure 99% copper

Brass - 80% copper, 20% Zinc

Copper-nickel-zinc - 55% copper, 27% zinc, 18% nickel

Stainless steel - 18% chromium, 9.5% nickel

- Ends -

Word count: 422 words

For further information contact:

Gareth Price
Copper Development Association
5 Grovelands Business Centre, Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TE
Tel: 01442 275705, Fax: 01442 275716
Email: gareth.price@copperdev.co.uk
Websites: www.cda.org.uk & www.brass.org

Note to editors:

JPEGs @ 300dpi available by email from gareth.price@copperdev.co.uk