

Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

What are COSHH products?

These substances could be dusts, gases or fumes that you breathe in, or liquids, gels or powders that come into contact with your eyes or skin. There could also be harmful micro-organisms present that can cause infection, an allergic reaction or are toxic.

Examples of hazardous substances include:

- Chemicals e.g. cleaning agents
- Dusts / Mists e.g. flour dust
- Gases e.g. butane
- Fumes e.g. glue, paint
- Liquids e.g. Petrol, blood



Ill health caused by these substances

used at work is preventable. Many

substances can cause asthma or other diseases, including cancer. Many can

damage the skin, and some can cause serious long-term damage to the lungs but, used properly, they almost never do.

The effect can be immediate, such as dizziness or stinging eyes, or can take many years to develop, such as lung disease. Many of the long-term or chronic effects cannot be cured once they develop.

What you have to do:

You can prevent or reduce workers exposure to hazardous substances by:

- finding out what the health hazards are
- deciding how to prevent harm to health (by completing Risk Assessments)
- providing control measures to reduce harm to health
- making sure they are used
- keeping all control measures in good working order
- providing information, instruction and training for workers and others
- providing monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases
- planning for emergencies

COSHH assessments

A COSHH assessment is produced by using the Safety Data Sheet that belongs to the product. We can then create the COSHH assessment to reduce risk in relation to the use and storage of a particular product or substance and should contain the following:

- Name of product and what it is used for
- How product is applied e.g. sprayed, poured, diluted

- Details of how product can cause harm
- Details of control measures used to reduce risks to an acceptable level e.g. Storage and PPE
- Details of how first aid is to be administered if product is ingested, inhaled, or comes into contact with eyes or skin, for example
- How the product is to be stored and disposed of
- What firefighting mediums can be used for example water, foam

Anything showing these symbols, need to have a COSHH assessment:



Explosive



Flammable



Oxidising



Corrosive



Acute toxicity



Hazardous to the environment



Serious Health Hazard



Health Hazard



Gas under pressure

COSHH assessment template



COSHH_Assessment_Template.pub