

# COSHH

COSHH – Control of Substance Hazardous to Health

## Objectives

- Understanding of COSHH
- Identification of hazardous health
- Purpose of COSHH assessment

## Keywords

- **Health** – when you feel well and no illness or injury
- **Safety** – when you are protected from harm
- **Risk** – risk the chances or likelihood that a hazard will course harm
- **Hazard** – something that has the a hazard will course harm
- **Control measure** – using equipment or certain ways of working to prevent, or to adequately control, exposure to substances hazardous to health, o as to prevent ill health

## Common Hazardous substance

- Acids
- Caustic substance
- Disinfectants
- Glues
- Heavy metals, including mercury, lead, cadmium and aluminium
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Petroleum products
- Solvents

## Routes of Entry

- **Ingestion**
- **Absorption**
- **Inhalation**
- **Injections**

**Exposure by breathing** – some substance can attack the nose, throat and lung by breathing substance in

**Exposure by skin contact** – some substance can damage skin, while others can pass through it and damage other parts of the body

**Exposure by swallowing** – chemicals can be transferred by hands to their mouths by eating, smoking etc

**Exposure by skin puncture** – chemical can be transferred through needles like drugs.

### **Side effects**

Poisoning

Nausea and vomiting

Headache

Skin rashes, such as dermatitis

Chemical burns

Birth defects

Disorder of the lung, kidney or liver

Nervous system disorder

### **Legislation**

- Health and safety at work act 1974
- C.O.S.H.H regulations 2002 (as amended)
- Chemicals (hazard information and packing for supply) regulations 2009

## **Employer's Responsibilities**

Health & safety work act 1974

- Look after employees health, safety and welfare
- Provide a healthy and safe workplace
- Provide a healthy and safe way to do jobs
- Provide information, instruction and training
- Assess risk and control them
  
- Assess risk
- Prevent or control exposure
- Decide on precautions
- Ensure controls are used and maintained
- Monitor exposure, and conduct health surveillance, where necessary
- Provide adequate supervision
- Provide information, instruction and training

## **Employee Responsibilities**

- Not put themselves or others at risk
- Report hazards/unsafe conditions
- Co-operate with their employers

**CHIP** – Chemicals hazard information and packaging doe supply  
(regulations 2009)

## **Chip symbols**

- **Explosive**
- **Oxidising** (cleaning chemicals)
- **Extremely or highly flammable** (solvents)
- **Toxic or very toxic** (mercury)
- **Harmful**
- **Corrosive**
- **Irritant** (cleaning materials)
- **Dangerous to the environment**



**Corrosive**



**Highly flammable**



**Biological Agent**



**Explosive**



**Flammable**



**Oxidising**



**Toxic**



**Irritant / Harmful**



**Harmful to the Environment**

**Toxic** – small quantities cause death or serious ill – health

**Harmful** – may cause death or serious ill health in large doses

**Corrosive** – destroy living tissue on contact, as sulphuric acids and hydrochloric acid in chemical cleaners

**Irritant** – causes inflammation of the eyes, lungs and skin from immediate, prolonged or repeated contact.

**Carcinogenic** - may cause cancer

### **Material safety data sheets (MSDS)**

1. Identification of the product
2. Hazards identifications
3. Composition/ information on ingredients
4. First aid measures
5. Fire fighting measures
6. Accidental release
7. Handling and storage
8. Exposure controls/personal protection
9. Physical & chemical properties
10. Stability & reactivity
11. Toxicological information
12. Ecological information
13. Disposal conditions
14. Transport information
15. Regulatory information
16. Other information