

COSHH and Hazardous Substances — Risk Assessment

Site-specific. Complete, sign, review. Delete rows that do not apply.

Assessor: _____ Site: _____ Date: _____ Review due: _____

Hazard	Who is harmed and how	Controls required	Further action	Done
Inhaling dusts, fumes, vapours, mists or gases	Anyone in the area. Occupational asthma, COPD, cancer. Often irreversible	Eliminate or substitute first. Then local exhaust ventilation. RPE only where control is still not adequate, and face fit tested		
Skin contact with irritants and sensitisers	Anyone handling. Irritant and allergic contact dermatitis, sometimes career-ending	Avoid contact. Suitable gloves for the actual substance, changed when contaminated. Barrier and after-work creams. Skin checks		
Substances swallowed from contaminated hands	The worker. Poisoning, illness	No eating, drinking or smoking in work areas. Wash before breaks		
Wrong glove for the substance	Wearer. Glove degrades and makes it worse	Check the breakthrough data for the actual chemical. A glove is not a glove		
Ill-fitting or wrong RPE	Wearer. No protection	Face fit testing for every tight-fitting mask, clean shaven at the seal, fit check every time		
LEV not tested or not working	Everyone relying on it. False sense of protection	Thorough examination and test normally at least every 14 months. Daily user checks. Records		
Mixing incompatible substances	Everyone nearby. Toxic gas, fire, explosion	Never mix. Bleach and acid products produce chlorine gas		
Decanting into unlabelled containers	Anyone who finds it. Poisoning, wrong first aid	Never decant into a drinks bottle. Label everything		
No safety data sheet	Everyone. Nobody knows what it does or what to do	Obtain the SDS before the substance comes on site. Keep it accessible		
Spills and emergencies	Anyone present. Exposure, slips	Spill kit suitable for the substances held. Emergency procedure known		

Assessor	Reviewed by	Date	Review due

Scope and limitations — read before use

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