

	TOOLBOX TALKS FOR THE CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES			Page 1 of 5
	HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH - COSHH			
	Department FM / MEP	Document Ref. No. QHSE DOCS-TBT-COSHH-27	Issue Date 23-05-2023	Revision 00

WHAT IS COSHH?

COSHH stands for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health. It is a set of regulations that originated in the United Kingdom and is designed to protect workers from the risks posed by hazardous substances in the workplace.

The COSHH regulations require employers to assess and control the risks associated with the use, handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances. These substances can include chemicals, solvents, dust, fumes, gases, biological agents, and any other substances that may cause harm to human health.

Under COSHH, employers are required to:

- Identify and assess the potential hazards associated with hazardous substances in the workplace.
- Implement control measures to prevent or minimize exposure to these substances.
- Provide information, instruction, and training to employees regarding the risks and precautions associated with hazardous substances.
- Monitor the exposure levels of employees and carry out health surveillance where necessary.
- Maintain appropriate records of risk assessments, control measures, and exposure monitoring.
- Plan for emergencies and accidents involving hazardous substances.

COSHH regulations aim to protect workers by ensuring that appropriate control measures are in place to prevent or minimize exposure to hazardous substances, thereby reducing the risk of occupational illnesses and injuries. Employers need to comply with COSHH regulations to safeguard the health and well-being of their employees.

COSHH

- Why a presentation on COSHH?
- What is COSHH?
- What does it mean?
- COSHH Assessment

WHY?

- Because 'substances' harm people-currently more than 6,000 people die each year from diseases caused by the workplace (250 die each year from workplace accidents)
- Legal requirement
- There is a lack of full understanding of COSHH.
- The file 'sits on the shelf'

WHAT IS COSHH?

	TOOLBOX TALKS FOR THE CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH - COSHH			Page 2 of 5
	Department FM / MEP	Document Ref. No. QHSE DOCS-TBT-COSHH-27	Issue Date 23-05-2023	Revision 00

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
- Oils & greases
- Chemicals/additives
- Cement
- Thousands of others

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- That all hazardous substances are supplied with a data sheet
- That a competent person reviews this sheet and assesses any task with the material, then works out control measures before it is used, not after an incident!
- That the people using the material know and use the control measures.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS (MSDS)

- All have 16 headings and are set out similarly
- Include all relevant information on PPE use, first aid measures, health exposure, and environmental spillage amongst others.
- On its own, it is not a COSHH assessment-it is a tool to help it be done.

COSHH ASSESSMENT

- The MSDS should be used when assessing the task being carried out.
- For example, a Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment for the use of Concrete will involve or will include a risk assessment of using the concrete-not just putting the concrete Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in a file!
- A standard risk assessment form is appropriate for conducting a COSHH assessment

FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Underline the COSHH Regulations:

1. Assessment of COSHH risks and the precautionary measures required.
2. Introduction of appropriate measures to prevent or control risks.
3. Ensuring that control measures are used
4. Where mandatory or needed, monitoring the exposure of employees.
5. Informing, instructing, and training employees on the risks and the precautions that need to be taken.

TOOLBOX TALKS FOR THE CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES			Page 3 of 5
HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH - COSHH			
Department FM / MEP	Document Ref. No. QHSE DOCS-TBT-COSHH-27	Issue Date 23-05-2023	Revision 00

COSHH Assessment

Assessment Description				Concrete COSHH Assessment								
Substance Group				Fresh concrete and screed								
Who Is At Risk?				Plant staff, Drivers, Fitters, Technical Staff								
Hazard	RAW RISK (NO control measure(s))			Current Control Measure(s)	OPERATIONAL RISK (WITH control measure(s))			Possible Future Improvements	RISK (WITH Improvements)			
	P Number	S Number	PxS =		P Number	S Number	PxS =		P Number	S Number	PxS =	
Exposure when carrying out general maintenance on plant / truckmixers, cleaning up after spillage and testing can cause irritant contact dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis and can lead to serious burns and ulceration on contact with eyes and skin. When used as intended, no environmental impact is anticipated. If spillage occurs, do not allow material to enter drains, sewers or watercourses.	5	4	20	PPE including safety glasses / visor, waterproof clothing, boots and gloves are worn when cleaning up or working in or near wet concrete / screed. Washing facilities available and eye wash station in place at plants and laboratory. Disposed of in accordance with local and national legal requirements. Entry into watercourses is avoided. Emergency spill procedure in place.	1	4	4	Install washing facilities in technicians vans.	1	4	4	

P - Probability S - Severity
P: 1: V Rare, 2: Unlikely, 3: Occasional, 4: Probable, 5: Definite.
S: 1: V Minor, minimal harm to Env, 2: Less than 3 days, minor event washed/weeped away naturally, 3: 3 days, clean up required +, 4: Major, significant Pollution 5: Fatally, permanent damage to Env.

HOW DO I RECOGNISE A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE?

There's more useful and clear information and details regarding the COSHH on labels than you might think.

***“CORROSIVE DANGEROUS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT EXPLOSIVE (VERY) TOXIC HARMFUL/IRRITANT
OXIDISING HIGHLY OR EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE”***

	TOOLBOX TALKS FOR THE CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES			Page 4 of 5
	HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH - COSHH			
	Department FM / MEP	Document Ref. No. QHSE DOCS-TBT-COSHH-27	Issue Date 23-05-2023	Revision 00



All substances with one of these logos must have a Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) assessment. Material Safety Data Sheets-MSDS is not merely limited to these substances though!

WHY ISN'T IT USED?

- Data sheets don't turn up with the material
- Diseases often don't become apparent as soon as the substances are used
- The Data Sheets are all in a file on the shelf-these magically protect people from harm!
- It is seen as time-consuming

WHY SHOULD IT BE DONE?

To prevent:

	TOOLBOX TALKS FOR THE CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES			Page 5 of 5
	HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH - COSHH			
	Department FM / MEP	Document Ref. No. QHSE DOCS-TBT-COSHH-27	Issue Date 23-05-2023	Revision 00

- Dermatitis
- Liver/kidney/heart failure
- Cancer
- Lung disease
- Acid/alkali burns
- Loss of sight
- Blood poisoning, Etc.

SUMMARY

- Diseases don't become noticeable until it's too late.
- Prevent them in the first place by doing the assessment-not just having the material safety data sheet (MSDS).

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED AND COMMUNICATED BY:
QHSE ENGINEER	PROJECT ENGINEER