

INDEX 

Health and Safety Executive		Operational Circular	
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Target Audience:
All HSE Inspectors

CHEMICAL (HAZARD INFORMATION AND PACKAGING FOR SUPPLY) REGULATIONS 2002 FIELD ACTIVATION ARRANGEMENTS

This OC sets out the co-operative framework in HSE for handling inquiries and queries relating to the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (CHIP 3)

BACKGROUND

- 1 The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (CHIP3) came into force on 24 July 2002. Operational Circular [OC 253/9](#) set out the changes that these Regulations introduced in superceding previous amendments to CHIP. The enforcement responsibilities remain unchanged.
- 2 This OC sets out the internal arrangements agreed between operational divisions/directorates and Policy Group for dealing with queries and enquiries given that the central focus for advice in Policy Group Chemicals and Flammables Policy Division International Chemicals Unit (CFPD ICU) no longer exists. It is recognised that whilst these Regulations underpin other vital legislation, including the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) it is unrealistic for all inspectors to be familiar with every aspect of the details of CHIP 3.

ARRANGEMENTS

- 3 Therefore to deal with queries and enquiries in an intelligent and efficient manner good co-operation is required between HSE staff. The following framework should be helpful in achieving this: The first level of general advice is and will continue to be provided centrally via the HSE Infoline. Experience indicates that the level of knowledge provided to enquirers is high and use of the service should be encouraged.
- 4 The second level of advice in HSE should be provided locally by regulatory inspectors and most enquirers should be helped directly or by directing people to sources of help and information ([see appendix](#)). It is envisaged that few queries would pass beyond this stage.

5 Where after careful consideration, inspectors need more detailed technical or practical advice then they should consult appropriate SG colleagues (occupational hygienists and process safety specialists) or HID CI colleagues who will co-operate on an informal basis at local offices as part of the normal co-operation process within HSE.

6 For specific policy and interpretation advice the appropriate policy section (CFPD ICU) will continue to give advice to inspectors. However they will not in general give advice to casual enquirers, as they do at present, but refer matters to local HSE offices.

7 The third level of advice will continue to be provided by FOD Central Specialist Division (CSD1). This Unit provided detailed technical advice within HSE and externally on detailed chemical and health issues; for example where clarification of a classification is required or the specific basis of self classification is a matter of debate or enforcement.

8 It is recognised that these arrangements require both the appropriate level of training for inspectors and full co-operation between operational inspectors. It is also recognised that inspectors' knowledge and experience of these Regulations vary and that while training plans to give inspectors an adequate background on the Regulations are brought into effect; those inspectors who have a high level of operational experience will be prepared to offer greater assistance.

APPENDIX
(paras 4)

CURRENT CHIP DOCUMENTS

Statutory instruments

- 1 The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/1689).

Approved documents

- 2 L129 *The Approved Supply List* (Seventh edition) (ISBN 0-7176-2368-8).
- 3 L131 *The Approved classification and labelling Guide* (ISBN 0-7176-2396-6)
- 4 L130 *The Compilation of Safety Data Sheets (Approved Code of Practice)* (ISBN 0-7176-2371-8).

Explanatory publications

- 5 HS(G) 228 *CHIP 3 for everyone* (ISBN 0-7176-2370-X).
- 6 IND(G) 350 *The Idiot's guide to CHIP* (ISBN 0-7176-2333-5).
- 7 IND(G) 353 *Why do I need a safety data sheet?* (ISBN 0-7176-2367-X).

8 IND(G) 186(L) *Read the label: how to find out if chemicals are dangerous* (ISBN 0-7176-2366-1).

Internet

9 CHIP pages: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/chip/index.htm>

10 CHIP 3 text: <http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2002/20021689.pdf> 

[TOP](#) 