

Health and Safety Executive		Sector Information Minute	
		SIM 03/2006/02	
Cancellation Date	01/04/2010	Open Government Status	Fully Open
Version No & Date	1: 01/04/2006	Author Unit/Section	Manufacturing Sector

Target Audience:

HSE FOD Inspectors who cover the Manufacturing Industry (Printing and Publishing)
 SG Specialist Inspectors (Occupational Hygiene),
 Occupational Health Inspectors and Medical Inspectors in the London Division and in the East and South East Division

PREVENTING DERMATITIS: INTERVENTION IN THE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRIES

This SIM covers FOD Operational Inspection Work in support of the Disease Reduction Programme - Skin Disease Project 2006/07 - Printers. The inspections are aimed at reducing the risk of occupational dermatitis to 'printers' in these industries.

AIM

1 The aim of this project is to:

- Raise awareness of dermatitis amongst 'printers'.
- Determine if the risk of occupational contact dermatitis has been identified and adequately assessed;
- To change behaviour by the adoption of good practice controls covered by the 'COSHH Essentials for Printers Control Guidance Sheets'.

BACKGROUND

2 It is estimated that there are over 8,400 new cases of occupational dermatitis each year in the UK. These cases are spread across a wide range of occupations including: nurses; hairdressers; cooks and chefs; printers; etc. Printers have been identified as one of the occupational groups with a higher incident rate of dermatitis compared to the all industry average and thus printers are at greater than average risk of developing dermatitis.

3 Between 2002 and 2004, the average rate of occupational dermatitis amongst printers was 27 per 100,000 workers. This compares to the all industry average of 6 per 100,000 workers.

4 340,000 workers are employed in over 15,000 companies in the printing and publishing industries and it is estimated that of these workers over 45,000 will actually be 'printers'.

The vast majority of the 15,000 printing and publishing companies are small and medium sized businesses (SME's). However a number of the larger organisations have multi-site operations around the UK.

5 The Manufacturing Sector (Printing Group's) experience of visiting printing and publishing companies suggests that:

- There is a general lack of awareness amongst printers that dermatitis is an issue;
- Variable standards of good practice controls are being applied by both employers and employees to reduce the risk of 'printers' developing dermatitis.

6 In 2004/05, HSE worked closely with the Printing Industry Advisory Committee (PIAC) to produce a number of new products aimed at providing advice on appropriate 'good practice' on how to control exposure to chemicals in printers for a range of common printing tasks. See the GUIDANCE SECTION for more details.

ACTION AND RESOURCE REQUIRED

7 To support the Disease Reduction Programme - Skin Disease Project 2006/07 it has been agreed that FOD Operational Inspection Work will include 150 inspections (by B4 inspectors) of printers and publishers [SIC codes 221100 to 222300] in the London and the East and South East Division - 110 inspections in FOD East & South East Division and 40 in FOD London Division – this equates to 10 visits per Inspector. In addition, there will be 20 visits by Medical Inspectors and 20 visits by OHs in these two Divisions. The reason for the geographical targeting is due to the high density of printing premises in this area.

8 FOD operational groups are requested to target a range of printers and publishers using the following criteria for selection: -

- Small and medium sized firms with between 5 - 100 employees;
- Firms that have not been inspected in the last 3 years;
- If possible, avoid sites that have been inspected recently through other HSE Initiatives such as the HSE 'Backs' Campaign in 2005 etc ;
- Inspectors should also be aware that B3 visits are taking place nationally to cover slips and trips and workplace transport. Inspectors should liaise locally with colleagues to ensure that duplicate visits are not made;
- As part of Fit3, B4 Inspectors may also wish to cover slips and trips and workplace transport if appropriate (please refer to the SIMs for these topics).

9 60 days of reactive support (B3 Occupational Hygiene) is allocated to the project.

COMPLETION DATE

10 It is expected that inspection visits will take place between August 2006 and March 2007.

GUIDANCE

COSHH Essentials For Printers

11 COSHH Essentials for printers provides good practice advice on how to control exposure to chemicals for a range of common printing processes. Companies who follow

the guidance will normally be complying with the law.
www.hse.gov.uk/printing/coshhessentials

Posters

12 Key messages are also contained in a simple visual format in the form of a series of new posters which outline what dermatitis is and covers some of the key messages in terms good practice controls. The posters are also available from the HSE printing web site (see link above).

Topic Pack

13 A Dermatitis Topic Pack is being developed and will give further details and guidance on issues to cover at the inspection/visit.

14 Poor compliance should result in enforcement action in accordance with the HSC Enforcement Policy Statement and the Enforcement Management Model.

15 Any enforcement action taken should reflect the new emphasis in Regulation 7 of COSHH 2002 (as amended) to apply the principles of good control practice when controlling exposure to substances hazardous to health – Schedule 2A provides details on what is required.

RECORDING

16 Inspectors should complete an Inspection report Form (IRF1) as normal and enter the visit in the usual way onto COIN using the Keyword 'skin'.

INSPECTOR TRAINING

17 The Disease Reduction Programme team will deliver training for FOD Band 4 staff on all operational aspects of its programme in June/July 2006.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

18 Please note the Health and Safety Supplements relating to general site visits, which are available on the Intranet under 'Your Health and Safety'.

RCI INDICATORS

19 Guidance on RCI Scores is given in Appendix 1.

FURTHER ADVICE

20. Further information can be obtained from Karen Parkinson (VPN 503 4269); Ian Hobson Manufacturing Sector (VPN 515 4271) or Diane Llewellyn (VPN 523 4777).

APPENDIX 1

WORK-RELATED CONTACT DERMATITIS: RISK CONTROL INDICATORS (RCI)

ASSESSMENT SCALE			
Each risk control indicator should be assessed against the following 1 - 4 scale. A score of 1 must satisfy all the appropriate criteria of the risk control indicator.			
1	2	3	4
Full compliance in areas that matter	Broad compliance in areas that matter	Some compliance in areas that matter	Limited or no compliance in areas that matter

Work-related contact dermatitis	
a. Management system	Effective organisation and management arrangements including adequate risk/COSHH assessment, provision of information, instruction, training and supervision. Evidence of management commitment to preventing work-related contact dermatitis and arrangements for review.
b. Control strategy	Control hierarchy considered and applied. Substitution considered and effected where possible. Where appropriate, adequate engineering controls provided, used, maintained, examined and tested at suitable intervals. Suitable PPE (e.g. gloves, overalls) provided, worn and stored correctly, suitably cleaned and well maintained. Appropriate instruction and training provided in proper use of engineering controls and PPE.
c. Health surveillance	Health surveillance has been considered, and where deemed to be necessary, is provided by a competent person, everyone requiring it has been included, it is repeated as necessary and health records are kept. Cases of work-related dermatitis are reported under RIDDOR.