

OCE19

Offshore COSHH essentials



This information will help offshore dutyholders (owners, operators and contractors) to comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to protect workers' health.

This guidance consolidates good control practice and reinforces existing knowledge with additional information. It will help you carry out COSHH assessments, review existing assessments, deliver training and in supervising activities involving substances hazardous to health.

It is aimed at staff whose responsibilities include the management of substances hazardous to health on offshore installations (eg occupational health specialists, COSHH assessors, supervisors etc). It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow this guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

Also see OCE0 *Advice for managers*.

Welding essentials sheets:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/wlseries.htm

Pressure cleaning – external structures

Control approach R

Respiratory protective equipment

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice for pressure washing external areas, eg to remove drilling residues, guano etc. It covers the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an acceptable level, as part of your COSHH assessment.

This sheet does not cover ultra high-pressure water jetting.



Hazards

- ✓ Pressure washing produces mists that contain harmful substances such as cleaning agent, oil, mud residues and disease organisms.
- ✓ Health effects can include skin irritation, dermatitis, asthma and zoonoses.

Access

- ✓ Make a specific assessment if rope work or over-side work is required.
- ✓ Erect barriers and notices.
- ✓ Where necessary post a standby or sentry to raise the alarm in an emergency.

Equipment and procedures

- ✓ Ensure that sensitive equipment and electrical fittings are suitably waterproof.
- ✓ Dilute the cleaning agent to the right concentration.
- ✓ Respiratory protective equipment is normally required.
- ✓ First remove accessible heavy deposits by scraping. Shovel up waste.
- ✓ Avoid tripping hazards with the water line to the spray lance.

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- ✓ Ensure that equipment is sufficiently well designed and constructed, that it is safe when first put into use, and remains safe during the foreseeable conditions of its use.
 - ✓ Choose equipment, wiring and connectors that can keep water out.

Caution: Never direct the spray at any person.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see OCM3

- ✓ Ensure that all items of PPE are compatible.

Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) – see OCM4

- ✓ Provide CE-marked RPE with an assigned protection factor of at least 20 for particles.

Other protective equipment

- ✓ Provide a 'slicker suit' and a visor for low-pressure cleaning.

Examination and testing

RPE

- ✓ Examine and test RPE thoroughly at least monthly and infrequently used RPE at least three monthly. Replace worn parts.

Records

- ✓ Keep records of all examinations and tests for at least five years.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Make sure that the cleaners know the hazards of the contaminant for removal.
- ✓ Clean the area after the task, or as specified in working procedures.

Waste

- ✓ Residues are 'hazardous waste'. Label containers clearly – include a UN number where appropriate. Store and dispose of waste safely.

Personal decontamination and skin care

- ✓ Provide warm water, mild skin cleansers, nailbrushes, and soft paper, fabric towels or hot air for drying. Avoid abrasive cleansers.
- ✓ Provide pre-work skin creams, which will make it easier to wash dirt from the skin, and after-work creams to replace skin oils.

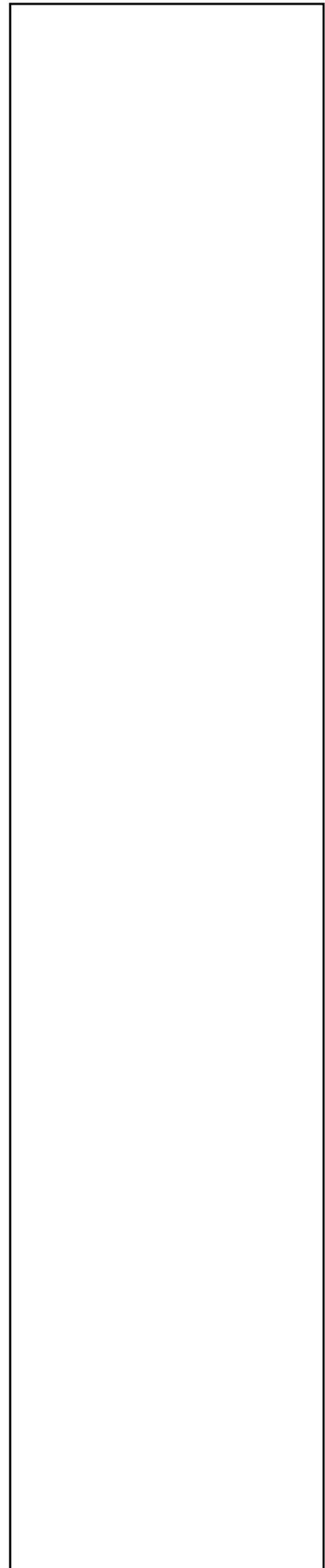
Caution: 'Barrier creams' or 'liquid gloves' do not provide a full barrier.

Health surveillance

- ✓ Conduct low-level health surveillance for dermatitis involving skin checks by suitably trained responsible person.

Training and supervision

- ✓ Provide supervision – ensure that safe work procedures are followed.
- ✓ Tell workers, including maintenance workers, what the hazards and risks are.
- ✓ Explain the early signs of dermatitis.



- ✓ Training includes toolbox talks on:
 - following safe working procedures;
 - how to use equipment properly;
 - how to use the right safe working procedures
 - emergency procedures;
 - how to use RPE and check that it is working; and
 - what to do if something goes wrong.
- ✓ Involve managers and supervisors in health and safety training.

Essential information

OCE0 *Advice for managers*

OCM3 *Personal protective equipment (PPE)*

OCM4 *Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)*

Employee checklist

- Is the standby person in place?
- Is the equipment in good condition and working properly?
- Is your respirator working properly? Check it every time.
- Look for signs of wear and damage to equipment.
- If you find any problem, get it fixed. Don't just carry on working.
- Co-operate with health surveillance.
- Wash hands before eating, drinking or using the lavatory.

Other hazards

- Noise
- Vibration
- Thermal – risk of overheating
- Thermal – cold
- Wet work
- Slips and trips
- Substances harmful to the marine environment

Further information

Avian Influenza: Avoiding the risk of infection on offshore installations Offshore Information Sheet 2/2007 HSE

Electrical risks from steam water pressure cleaners Plant and Machinery Guidance Note PM29 (Second edition) HSE Books 1995 ISBN 978 0 7176 0813 3

You can find the full Offshore COSHH essentials series at www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/index.htm

This guidance was developed by representatives from the UK offshore oil and gas industry and trade unions, with HSE.