

SRO

COSHH essentials
for service and retail

Advice for managers



This information will help employers (including the self-employed and franchisees) comply with the Control of Substances

Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to control exposure and protect workers' health.

It is also useful for trade union safety representatives.

This sheet describes good practice for managing the control of exposure.

Introduction

Dermatitis, and less often, asthma arise in many service and retail sectors. Dermatitis means skin soreness, itching, rashes, blotches or blistering. It often affects the hands. The advice sheets in this series cover single tasks and many apply to several sectors. The titles and sectors appear in a chart on the last page.

Action

By getting the advice, you have assessed the risk. But before acting, make sure the advice really fits what you do. Following all the advice means that you will normally get adequate control. Read the advice in each of the sheet(s) you downloaded. Compare it with what you do now.

You may already have the right controls in place, but are they all working properly? When were they last checked? Are they always used when needed?

You need to keep all controls in good working order. This means mechanical controls (eg dust or fume extraction), administrative controls (eg following rules) and operator behaviour (following instructions). Look at all aspects of the advice. Don't pick and choose - the points work together to provide 'adequate control'. Show that control is being sustained - keep good records.

You should carry out health monitoring or health surveillance for workers - the individual sheets tell you which is appropriate.

If you are in doubt, seek expert help. Remember, just because this advice means that you have to change old working practices or spend money on new controls, that doesn't make it unsuitable! Decide how best to make any changes required 'across the board'.

If you do need expert help, please don't give up. Ask your suppliers, trade association, trade union, or log onto www.bohs.org.

For information on 'first aid' see: www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/index.htm.

Information, training and supervision

Tell workers about the health effects of products they use - these appear in Part 15 of the safety data sheet or, for cosmetic products, ask the product representative.

Train and supervise workers - you need to make sure they are doing the job in the right way, and using controls properly to reduce their exposure as low as possible. Include supervisors and managers in health and safety training.

Training should include:

- how to use the controls and how to check that they are working;
- how to maintain and clean equipment safely;
- how to use and look after personal protective equipment (PPE); and
- what to do if something goes wrong.

Remind workers to check any respiratory protective equipment (RPE) every time they put it on.

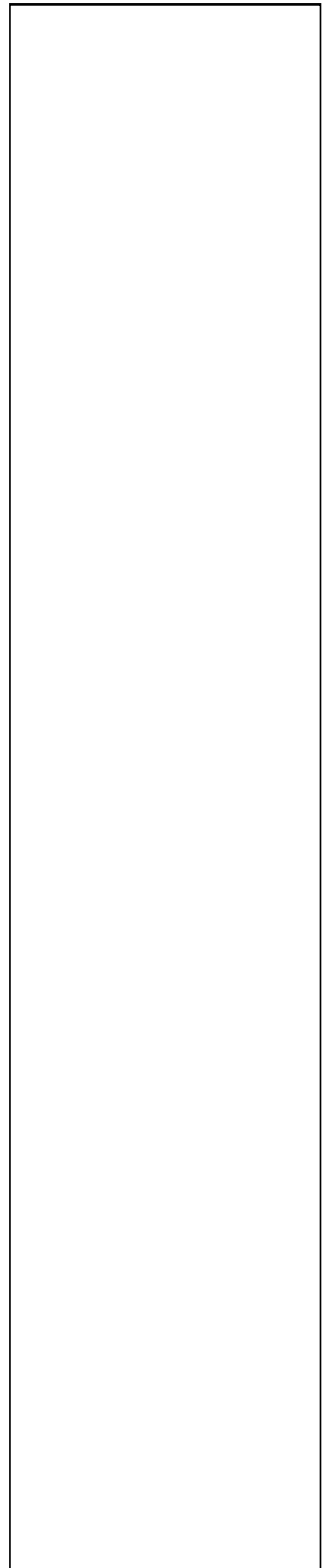
Supervision means checking workers:

- use the controls provided;
- follow the correct work method; and
- are following the rules on personal hygiene.

Environmental guidelines

Where necessary, releases may be regulated within the PPC (Pollution Prevention and Control) framework. You should consult your Local Authority or the Environment Agency. In Scotland, consult the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). See 'Netregs' - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs/sectors

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the 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.



Titles and suggested sectors to which they apply		Beauty	Car park and bus depot	Cleaning services	Florist and greengrocer	Funeral services	Hospitality - pubs, clubs, hotels, restaurants	Leisure and sports venues	Maintenance and repair services	Motor vehicle repair	Pest control	Warehousing
SR1	Cleaning and disinfection using low-pressure washer		●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●
SR2	Diluting concentrates	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
SR3	Fogging and misting using space sprayer								●		●	●
SR4	Manual cleaning and disinfecting surfaces	●		●	●	●	●					
SR5	Dry cleaning using perchloroethylene			●								
SR6	Dry cleaning - spotting			●								
SR7	Ready-for-use insecticide sprays and dusts	●		●	●	●	●		●		●	
SR8	Eradicating vermin (rats, etc)										●	
SR9	Water treatments - concentrates and treated water						●	●	●		●	
SR10	Embalming with formaldehyde solutions (formalin)					●						
SR11	Hairdressing	●										
SR12	Electrolysis, piercing, tattooing and micro-pigmentation	●										
SR13	Nail bars and other beauty services	●										
SR14	Vehicle exhaust fume (garage, warehouse, etc)		●							●		●
SR15	Exhaust fume from moving vehicles		●					●				
SR16	Work with motor vehicle fuel - diesel, petrol, LPG		●							●		
SR17	Valeting etc with solvent-based products									●		
SR18	Charging batteries - electrically-powered vehicles									●		●
SR19	Work with lubricants and waste oil								●	●		
SR20	Soldering - fume from rosin-cored solder								●			
SR21	Dust from abrasive wheels								●	●		
SR22	Solvent-based adhesives (small scale work)								●			
SR23	Solvent degreasing (low volatility, small scale work)								●	●		
SR24	Storing products (small scale)	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SR25	Smoke and fog - night-clubs and small venues						●	●				
SR26	Work with flowers, fruit and vegetables				●		●		●			●
SR27	Cooking fumes						●	●				