

SR19

COSHH essentials for service and retail



This information will help employers, the self-employed and franchisees to 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 and employee safety representatives.

This sheet describes good practice using personal protective equipment (PPE).

It covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Main points

- Oils and lubricants can cause skin irritation.
- Used engine oil may cause skin cancer.
- Check that all the controls are being used properly.

Also see sheet SR0.

Work with lubricants and waste oil

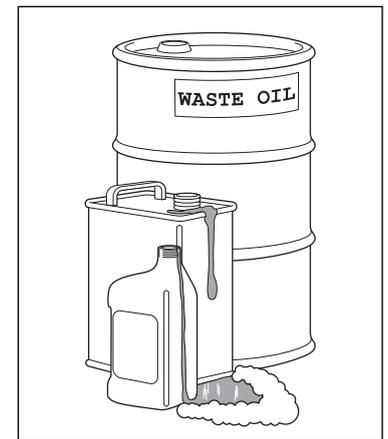
Harm via skin or eye contact

Access and premises

- ✓ Restrict access to those people who need to be there.
- ✓ Provide good washing facilities.

Equipment

- ✓ Designate storage areas capable of retaining spills for lubricants and wastes. Keep these areas free of ignition sources.
- ✓ Ensure that storage tanks have contents gauges or indicators.



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Use coveralls or work clothing to protect skin from contamination.
- ✓ Provide vinyl or nitrile protective gloves for handling lubricants and waste oils. Single-use gloves are acceptable.
- ✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time they are taken off.
- ✓ Skin creams are important for skin condition. They help in washing contamination from the skin. After work creams help to replace skin oils.

Caution: 'barrier creams' do not make a full barrier.

Procedures

- ✓ Store only minimum amounts of waste engine oil and ensure it is properly labelled.
- ✓ Wipe up dribbles before they spread.

Caution: Never allow waste oil to be contaminated with petrol or solvents.

Special Care

- ✓ Waste engine oil may cause skin cancer. Never keep oily rags in your pockets.

Health monitoring

- ✓ Ask your workers to check their skin for dryness or soreness every month. If these effects appear, check the proper use of skin creams and PPE.
- ✓ If warts appear, workers should seek medical advice.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Clear up spills promptly. Provide granules to absorb spills, and a lidded bin kept outside in a secure place to store this waste for disposal.
- ✓ Dispose of hazardous waste through a specialist contractor.
Caution: Workers must not take work clothing home for washing. Use a contract laundry.

Training and supervision

- ✓ Tell workers about the risks of using the product - see products labels or Section 15 of the safety data sheet.
- ✓ Where you have to use strong hand cleansers, train workers to wash off the residues with soap and water.
- ✓ Working in the right way and using the controls correctly is important for exposure control. Train and supervise workers. See sheet SR0.

Further information

- *Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists* HSG205 HSE Books 2001 ISBN 978 0 7176 1826 2
- Posters on protective gloves and skin care - see www.hse.gov.uk/skin/information.htm

Useful links

- For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/. You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.
- Contact the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) on 01332 298101 or at www.bohs.org for lists of qualified hygienists who can help you.

This document is available at: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/ and www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/essentials/

This document contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

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Employee checklist

- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage.
- Clear up spills straight away. Absorb spills in granules and put them in a lidded bin.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Wash your hands after contact with lubricant or waste oil.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products, solvents or fuel.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.
- Use skin creams provided as instructed.