

MRO

Advice for managers

COSHH essentials in motor vehicle repair



The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) require employers to ensure that exposure is prevented or, where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled. This guidance gives practical advice on how this can be achieved by applying the principles of good practice for the control of exposure to substances hazardous to health, as required by COSHH.

It is aimed at people whose responsibilities include the management of substances hazardous to health at work (eg occupational health specialists, anyone undertaking COSHH assessments, supervisors and is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives). It will help you carry out COSHH assessments, review existing assessments, deliver training and supervise activities involving substances hazardous to health.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, 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.

See Essential information near the end of the sheet.

Introduction

HSE have produced these advice sheets to help employers assess and control risks from hazardous substances in the workplace. For some common tasks the sheets take into account the health hazards (and exposure potential) of substances used or produced to identify an approach appropriate to control the risks.

The MR series describes good practice for controlling exposure to isocyanates from two-pack (2K) paints, seals, adhesives, etc in the motor vehicle repair (MVR) industry. They cover the key points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level. Follow all the points, or use equally effective measures to comply with biological monitoring guidance values (BMGVs) and workplace exposure limits (WELs).

MR1	Mixing two-pack (2K) paint containing isocyanate
MR2	Spraying two-pack (2K) products in a spray booth or room
MR3	Cleaning two-pack (2K) paint spray guns
MR4	has been withdrawn
MR5	SMART spraying with two-pack (2K) products
MR6	has been withdrawn

What the sheets cover

Reducing exposure to an adequate level always involves a mixture of equipment and ways of working. This means employers should:

- choose the most effective and reliable control measures;
- make sure they are used properly by instructing, training and supervising workers;
- use regular maintenance to make sure control measures keep on working;
- check and review all elements of control measures regularly for their continued effectiveness.

Each sheet gives advice on how to achieve this for a particular task.

Hazards

Breathing in isocyanate paint mist can cause asthma. Isocyanate paint can also cause skin allergies and dermatitis following skin contact. There is no evidence of isocyanates in paints causing cancer. Inhalation exposure relates to 'total isocyanate' and this has workplace exposure limits (WELs) of 0.02 mg/m³ (8-hour TWA) and 0.07 mg/m³ (15-minute reference period). You need to keep exposures as low as is reasonably practicable below these limits to stop occupational asthma developing. There is also a Biological Monitoring Guidance Value (BMGV) set at 1µmol/mol creatinine in urine. This is not a health based guidance value but is associated with good exposure control.

If an individual develops isocyanate-related occupational asthma, tiny amounts could trigger an attack. In addition, some people develop hypersensitivity which means their symptoms persist long after exposure ends and it may cause sensitivity to other natural substances and chemicals. If these illnesses occur, advice should be sought on case management from an occupational health professional.

How to use the sheets

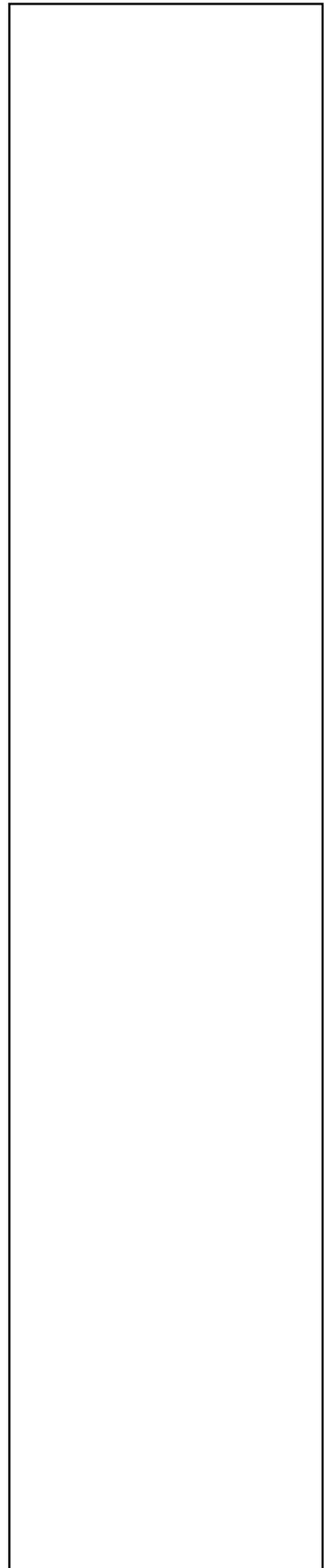
- Consider the processes/tasks and hazardous substances in your workplace.
- Look for opportunities to substitute less hazardous chemicals, or for opportunities to use smaller amounts of chemicals.
- Examine the advice sheets for each of the tasks.
- Examine the essential information sheets listed on each advice sheet.
- Compare operations in your workplace with recommendations in the advice sheets for all of the relevant tasks.
- Record your findings (this forms part of your risk assessment).
- Record any actions you need to take covering: issues identified, planned actions, target completion date, person responsible, status of any issues, and a review of effectiveness.
- Keep a record of your actions to prevent exposure of workers to hazardous materials.

You may have to change old working practices or spend money on new controls. Decide how best to make any changes required 'across the board'. If you are in doubt, seek expert help, don't give up! Ask your trade association, trade union or contact a consultant (see Further information).

Essential information

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

G402, G403, G408, G409, and other health surveillance, monitoring and sampling sheets are available at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/gseries.htm



Further information

Local exhaust ventilation (LEV) workplace fume and dust extraction web page: www.hse.gov.uk/lev

Controlling airborne contaminants at work: A guide to local exhaust ventilation (LEV) HSG258 HSE Books 2011
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg258.htm

Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) web page:
www.hse.gov.uk/respiratory-protective-equipment/index.htm

Respiratory protective equipment at work: A practical guide HSG53 (Fourth edition) HSE Books 2013 www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/HSG53.htm

Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register www.oshcr.org/

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.

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